
The 125 party starts here | Reds in Sydney | Players awards gallery | Kenny Dalglish Stand | Dominic Solanke
LIVERPOOL FC
YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE
1892 LIVERPOOL FOOTBALL CLUB 2017
EST·1892
125 YEARS
Official Liverpool FC Monthly Magazine liverpoolfc.com
LFC Mag Jul 2017 £4.25
ISSUE 059
HIS BEST BITS FROM 2016/17
BOBBY FIRMINO
AND HIS DREAMS FOR 17/18
EMRE CAN'S WONDERGOAL
Like you've never seen it before
MY SAVES OF THE SEASON
By Simon Mignolet
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Here for good

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ISSUE 59 JULY 2017

In 1892 we actually played in blue; in 2017 the new away kit's green (and white). It's time to party – LFC is 125 years hearty!

LIVERPOOL

The lively front section exploring the wider LFC world and keeping fans up-to-date with what's happening at home and abroad

FOOTBALL

The stuff that happens on the pitch: exclusive interviews with current stars, the stats that matter plus blasts from the past.

CLUB

Reaching out to communities at home and abroad, plus Anfield updates and the latest awesome official merchandise.



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JOB DONE A Liverpool win on the final day of the season against Middlesbrough would guarantee a top-four finish and qualification for the Champions League. Anfield was noisy. Anfield was nervous. Anfield expected. The lads ran out in their stylish new 125 year anniversary home strip for



the first time, but could they get the victory? They certainly could. Gini Wijnaldum eased the tension by smashing one home before half-time, Philippe Coutinho curled in a free-kick and Adam Lallana earned congratulations from his team-mates by netting a third. Now for the Champions League qualifier.



KLOPP FOUR FINISH The moment when Liverpool FC score an important goal. Is there anything better? The emotion on the faces of Jürgen Klopp and his backroom staff perfectly encapsulates how the sense of joy feels after Adam Lallana struck the Reds' third goal against Middlesbrough at



Anfield to clinch fourth place in the Premier League. The Redmen scored a total of 45 league goals at Anfield in 2016/17 in front of an average attendance of 50,308 - the highest ever in LFC history as a result of the expanded Main Stand. Seeing Anfield full on European nights next season will be special.



LAP OF THANKS Jürgen Klopp, his staff, players and their families did a traditional lap of the Anfield pitch following the final home game of the season and there were plenty of honours handed out. Lucas received a special trophy to mark his 10 years as a Liverpool player while Sadio Mane and



Emre Can were presented with 'The Rattle Golden Samba' awards after being voted as player of the year and young player of the year by LFC fans. Principal owner John Henry, his wife Linda Pizzuti and chariman Tom Werner also joined Jürgen Klopp on the pitch as the season came to a close.





PURE LIVERPOOL FC

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LIVERPOOLFC.COM/STORE



A cardboard cutout Steven Gerrard gets a hug from a fan Down Under – which three other ex-Reds played in the game v Sydney FC? **Answer on page 98**

A special anniversary and the best shots from Sydney and Instagram

LIVERPOOL

BEST FEET FORWARD

Liverpool FC and New Balance kick off footwear range with awesome new trainer as club celebrates its big 125 anniversary

Liverpool FC and New Balance have announced the first New Balance LFC trainer, in celebration of the club's 125th anniversary.

The New Balance LFC 247s – the first LFC trainers available in the UK in over a decade – are designed in 'Shankly Red' to match the 17/18 home kit and feature the 125th anniversary Liver Bird.

An adaptation of the classic NB 247, the footwear comes in both adult and junior sizes and is available in store and online, launching alongside the club's 17/18 home kit and training range. And a further range of LFC New Balance footwear will follow the LFC 247s, with details coming soon!

ALSO AVAILABLE




125 YEARS
LFC 125 vintage red liverbird tee (a8637) £15
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2017
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125 YEARS
LFC 125 chronographic watch (a9435) £185
1892
2017
L.F.C.
125 YEARS

HAPPY 125TH BIRTHDAY LFC!

A card with a difference and two community parties help to kick off the Reds' special celebrations

Reds fans have been given the chance to wish the club a happy 125th birthday on a giant birthday card. Revealed at Anfield on Saturday 3 June 2017, it measures 6x4 metres and was signed by thousands of Reds fans from around the world with well-wishes collected online.

The card was unveiled and signed by club ambassadors Robbie Fowler and Gary McAllister, alongside new chief-executive Peter Moore, in front of party-goers singing Happy Birthday. It stayed on view on 96 Avenue for fans visiting Anfield until Monday 5 June.

The 3 June birthday also saw members of the Anfield community take part in two special Red Neighbours birthday parties for pensioners groups and school children, ahead of the birthday card's big reveal.

The community events – a pensioner's lunch and a children's birthday party – saw 900 local residents come together to commemorate the day. Pupils from 21 local junior schools, who are a part of the Red Neighbours programme, joined LFC Foundation guests and Anfield Community Art members for a 125th-themed party with a Q&A with club ambassadors and dance competition with mascot Mighty Red, held in the new Main Stand.

Simultaneously, 200 pensioners from the Anfield area enjoyed a celebratory three-course meal in The Beautiful Game lounge, followed by singing, entertainment and close up magic.

The events kick off a year of 125th birthday celebrations throughout the 17/18 season.





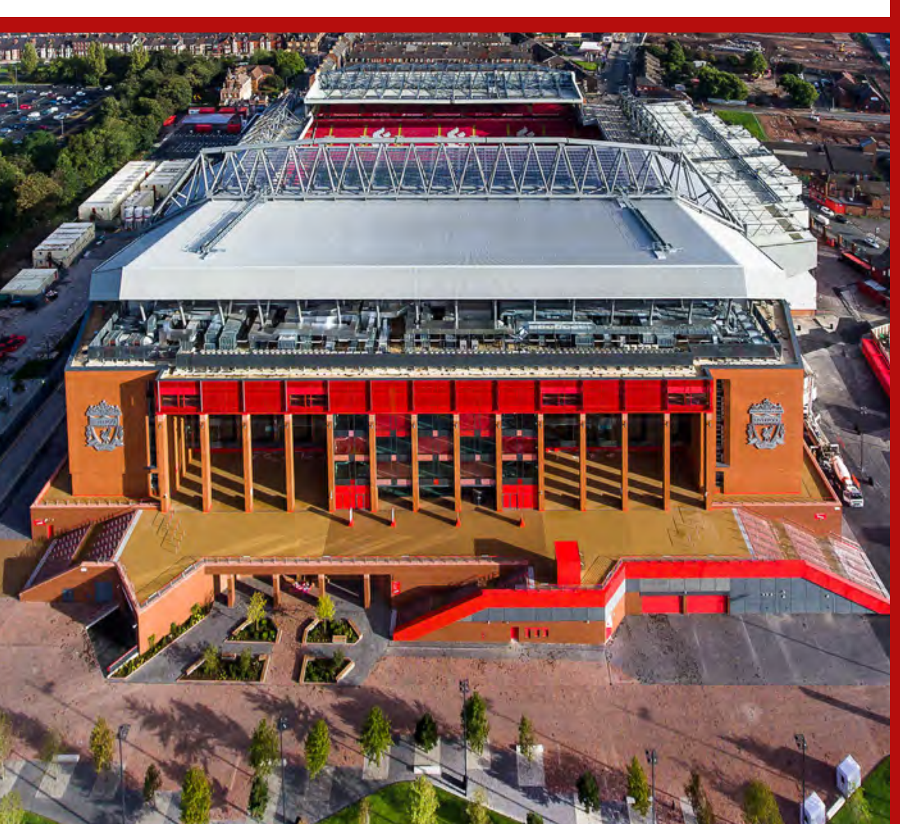




Take your place in

Anfield Forever





Don't miss your chance to join our exciting new LFC landmark at Anfield Stadium.

Anfield Forever is a landscaped area that will form the walkway alongside the Main Stand - and you can buy your very own personalised engraved granite stone.

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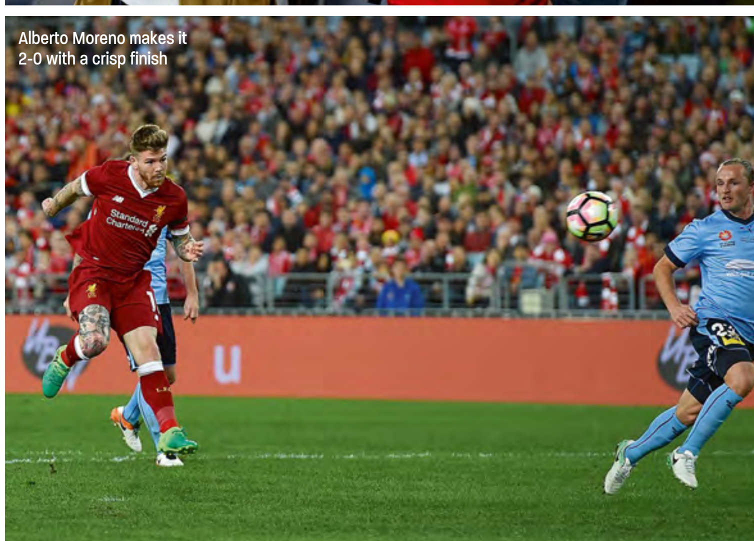
DEAR

Another awesome antipodean welcome for


A trademark Steven Gerrard 40-yard pass




Can you play Scouser Tommy? The boss tries out the didgeridoo


Alberto Moreno makes it 2-0 with a crisp finish

The Liverpool squad take in Sydney Opera House



the Reds, this time on their post-season trip to New South Wales


Move over Sturridge dance



Nineties favourite Steve McManaman gets a run-out

Jürgen Klopp and his Liverpool FC squad visited Sydney for a post-season tour match last month and enjoyed themselves on and off the pitch.

With legends Steven Gerrard, Jamie Carragher, Steve McManaman and Daniel Agger pulling on red shirts again to play alongside current first-team players, Liverpool beat Australian champions Sydney FC 3-0 in front of 72,892 at the ANZ Stadium with Daniel Sturridge, Alberto Moreno and Roberto Firmino all on the scoresheet before half-time.

Before returning back to the UK the travelling Reds party visited some of Sydney's most famous landmarks while Klopp experienced some Aboriginal culture by playing a didgeridoo, throwing a boomerang and spear and taking part in some traditional dancing. As you do!



REDS ON INSTAGRAM

Dream fulfilled for Dirk, Carra sees red and Digger's dim sums...



@liverpoolfc Happy 125th birthday to us! 🔴





@luchogracia14 John Barnes making Dim Sums Shanghai style 🔝 #Legend #N10 #LFCWorld





@kuyt This is what i dreamed of 🖤⚪ #feyenoord #feyenoordkampioen



@lucasleiva I would like to thank everyone. It is been a long season but we are happy to bring back champions league football next season. Thanks all the supporters over the last 10 years and thanks LFC for the tribute #ynwa





@lfcnsw Macca appreciating the @lfcnsw Macca appreciation banner. First unveiled for the 2015 LFC Brisbane tour, now signed by the man #lfcnsw #cheersbarsydney #garymacca #whatanight #liverpoolfc #ynwa



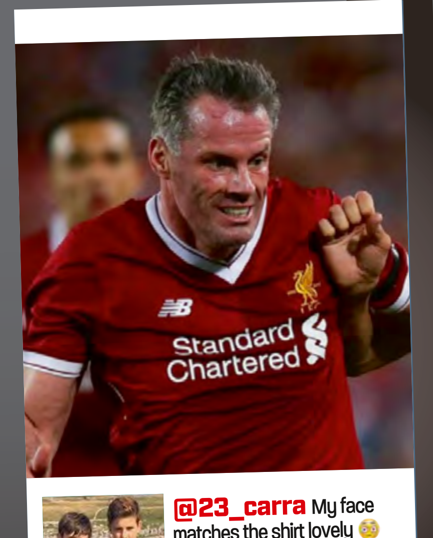


@22mignolet22 Great feeling to celebrate with the fans after achieving our objective!! #top4 #championsleague #YNWA 🔴👊🔥👍⚽💯



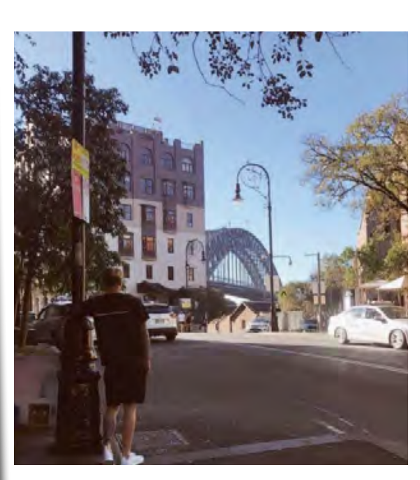


@jamespearce1977 Decent Standard kickabout on Bondi Beach today #LFC



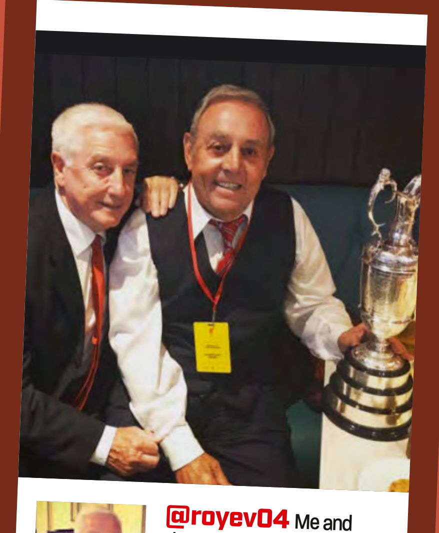


@23_carra My face matches the shirt lovely 😳 Great to put the @liverpoolfc shirt on again. #liverpool #sydney



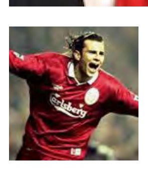


@lorisk21 Enjoying some nice views in Sydney. Thanks for having us, Australia 🇦🇺 👌 #sightseeing #LK1





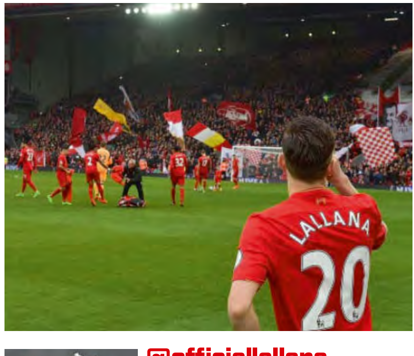
@royev04 Me and The Saint with the Claret Jug yesterday #claretjug #Anfield #Golf #lfc

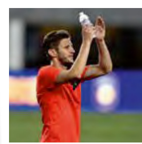


@paddypb23 What a special day in a special place! Perfect ending CL football is back home at Anfield! I'm happy to be home with my boy and spend the best day (10 hours) at Anfield. It just gets better everytime ⚽ #LFC #YNWA



@kevstewart93 Sydney, Australia it's been short but real...Incredible city p.s Kangaroos are my new favourite animals 😂 🔴#LFC





@officiallallana There's no place like home 🔴



@jones_brad Still sinking in....Love that i could play a part in getting this man that trophy #kuyt #LEGEND #TEAM #YNWA

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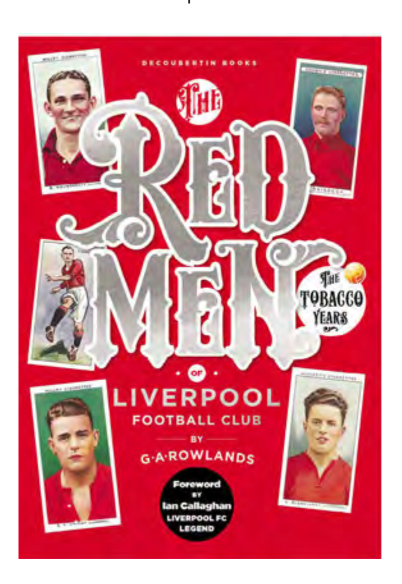
When George met Cally

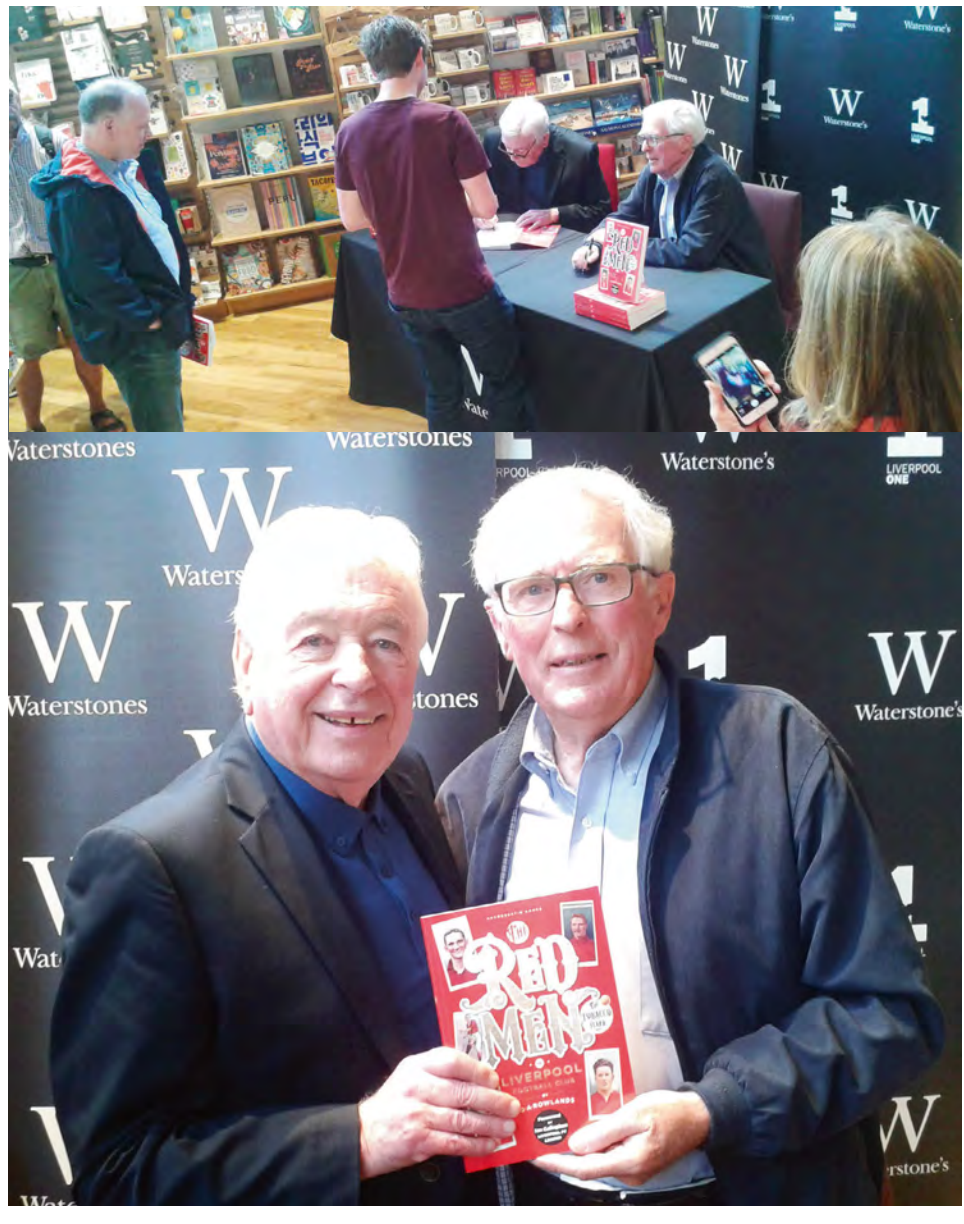
Author and collector George Rowlands launches his new book with Reds legend Ian Callaghan

Waterstones Liverpool was the setting for the launch of a book with a difference entitled *The Redmen: The Tobacco Years*, and on hand to sign copies were author George Rowlands and former midfielder Ian Callaghan, one of the original 'Bill Shankly boys', who's written the foreword.

In the early 20th century, cigarette cards were the most enduring portrayal of football stars and were collected by boys – like George – from their families and friends. In a forerunner of today's fantasy football games, the cards would be swapped and traded to see who could assemble the best team.

Today they provide a compelling insight into a bygone era, and Rowlands tells the story in a richly illustrated and deeply evocative book. It's out now, published by deCoubertin and priced £14.99.





When George met Louis

The veteran Voice of Anfield welcomes the new voice of Liverpool to his stadium nerve-centre

Sharp-eared fans at LFC's last home game of 2016/17 may have heard a catchy new tune on the half-time playlist. Entitled *She Wants Me*, it's the latest release from local singer-songwriter Louis Berry and it was played during the interval in the match against Middlesbrough.

A fortnight earlier Louis had paid a visit to George Sephton, the 'Voice of Anfield', for the BBC2 programme MOTD: The Premier League Show. He said: "Most musicians dream of playing at Glastonbury, but there's only one better place if you're a football fan to hear your music. I'm Louis Berry, I'm a Liverpool fan, and that place for me is Anfield…"

George duly welcomed the young Kopite to his stadium nerve-centre, revealing that when he plays *You'll Never Walk Alone* before kick-off, "To this day the hairs stand up on the back of my neck." Louis then played his new single and George put it top of the list for the Boro game.





EIGHTEEN HUNDRED HEROES

The field hits four figures as famous faces and fans participate and show their support for the biggest Run For The 96 so far



The third annual Run for the 96 in Liverpool's Stanley Park attracted 1,800 Reds and Blues last month to run in the 5K and new 1 Mile fun runs – making it the biggest to date.

The overall aim is to remember and celebrate the lives of those we lost at Hillsborough on 15 April 1989. Run for the 96 also remembers their families and the survivors, who have fought for justice with the utmost dignity.

After cheering the runners on for the last two years, Margaret Aspinall, the chair of the Hillsborough Family Support Group, took part in the 5K for the first time, walking with local actor and Reds fan Michael Starke, aka Sinbad from *Brookside*.

Margaret described it as "an amazing day. It has a real community feel and the support we receive is fantastic. Everyone should be very proud of themselves."

Former LFC manager Rafael Benitez was back for a second consecutive time to support the event. "This is home so I am really pleased to come along and support with my family, who took part," he said. "It is really important to remember the 96, and the run brings Liverpudlians and Evertonians together – bringing Liverpool together as a city."

Guest runners also included Reds legend Alan Kennedy and metro mayor Steve Rotheram, who have both taken part for three years, plus Liverpool boxer Stephen Smith, TV celeb Craig Phillips; former *Emmerdale* actor Kurtis Stacey, 'Milk Tray Man' Patrick McBride, Everton fan Speedo Mick, deputy mayor of Liverpool Ann O'Byrne, and MP Alison McGovern.

The official charity partners of Run for the 96 are the LFC Foundation, Everton in the Community, and Stanley Park Liverpool CIC. Donations can still be made by visiting **uk.virginmoneygiving.com/RunForThe965k.**

L.F.C.

Make it a Father's Day to remember

Enjoy a fantastic Father's Day with **LFC Legends Roy Evans** and **Phil Neal** at Anfield, with fine dining, views overlooking the stadium and the opportunity to get your picture taken with LFC silverware.

Sunday 18th June 2017
Anfield Stadium
Tickets only £65pp
Under 16s £35pp

www.liverpoolfc.com/lfcdinners
Call: **0151 264 2222**

WHAT'S



ON: JUNE

2017/18 FIXTURES REVEAL

The Premier League fixture list for the 2017/18 season will be released at 9am on Wednesday 14 June. The campaign begins on the weekend of 12 August 2017 and ends on Sunday 13 May 2018.

The Reds will renew acquaintances with former manager Rafael Benitez as they take on promoted Newcastle United and also play league fixtures against Brighton and Hove Albion for the first time since 1982/83.

Following goalkeeper Danny Ward's play-off heroics, Liverpool will also face Huddersfield Town, managed by Jürgen Klopp's good friend David Wagner. The last time the Reds met The Terriers in league action was back in the 1971/72 season when Bill Shankly's men completed a double against his former club.

Liverpool's first game of the season will be Klopp's 100th as LFC boss.

The feeling when you wake up on Premier League fixture list reveal day

LIVERPOOL'S OPENING-DAY PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES

2016/17 Arsenal (A) **4-3**
2015/16 Stoke City (A) **1-0**
2014/15 Southampton (H) **2-1**
2013/14 Stoke City (H) **1-0**
2012/13 West Brom (A) **0-3**
2011/12 Sunderland (H) **1-1**
2010/11 Arsenal (H) **1-1**
2009/10 Tottenham (A) **1-2**
2008/09 Sunderland (A) **1-0**
2007/08 Aston Villa (A) **2-1**
2006/07 Sheffield United (A) **1-1**
2005/06 Middlesbrough (A) **0-0**
2004/05 Tottenham (A) **1-1**
2003/04 Chelsea (H) **1-2**
2002/03 Aston Villa (A) **1-0**
2001/02 West Ham (H) **2-1**
2000/01 Bradford City (H) **1-0**
1999/00 Sheffield Wed (A) **2-1**
1998/99 Southampton (A) **2-1**
1997/98 Wimbledon (A) **1-1**
1996/97 Middlesbrough (A) **3-3**
1995/96 Sheffield Wed (H) **1-0**
1994/95 Crystal Palace (A) **6-1**
1993/94 Sheffield Wed (H) **2-0**
1992/93 Nottm Forest (A) **0-1**



WHAT'S ON: JUNE

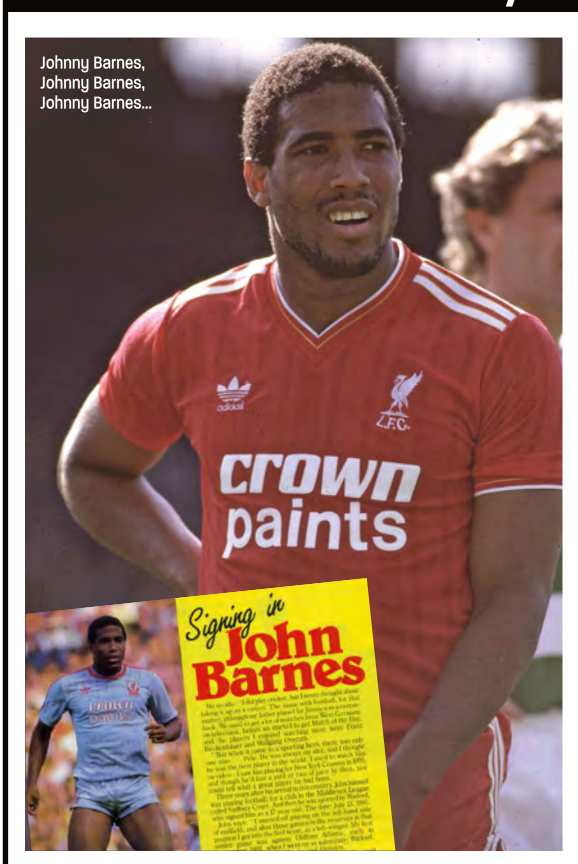
BATTLE OF BRITAIN!

Members of the Liverpool FC squad will be on World Cup qualifying duty this month with Scotland taking on England in the pick of the ties at Hampden Park on Saturday 10 June. Daniel Sturridge and Adam Lallana were both on target when England won the corresponding game 3-0 at Wembley last November.

Other qualifiers set to involve Reds players include Holland v Luxembourg in Rotterdam, Germany v San Marino in Nuremberg, Serbia v Wales in Belgrade and Estonia v Belgium in Talinn where Ragnar Klavan could come up against club-mates Simon Mignolet and Divock Origi.



Anniversaries and birthdays



Johnny Barnes, Johnny Barnes, Johnny Barnes...

It's 30 years since winger John Barnes joined the Reds from Watford on 9 June 1987.

The Reds splashed out £900,000 to bring the young England ace to Anfield and it soon proved to be bargain. John joined forces with fellow new recruits Peter Beardsley and John Aldridge to form one of the club's most exciting forward lines.

He recalled: "I was completely convinced that Kenny Dalglish bought me to partner John Aldridge upfront. 'Kenny', I asked shortly after signing, 'where will I be playing?' Without a second's pause Kenny replied, 'Left-wing'. Kenny knew that Beardsley, a clever, skilful support-striker, would soon be joining. I had thought my left-wing days were over!"

It took Barnes just nine minutes to create a goal for Aldridge on his Liverpool debut against Arsenal at Highbury on 15 August 1987. His Anfield debut against Oxford United the following month also stood out, with Dalglish saying afterwards: "Barnes did what we expected him to do. He made a goal, scored one, and entertained."

Loris Karius **24** on 22 June
Danny Ward **24** on 22 June
Jason McAteer **46** on 18 June
Alan Hansen **62** on 13 June
Javier Mascherano **33** on 8 June
Craig Johnston **57** on 25 June
Jordan Henderson **27** on 17 June
Jamie Redknapp **44** on 25 June
Philippe Coutinho **25** on 12 June
Luis Garcia **39** on 24 June
Ian St John **79** on 7 June
Gordon Wallace **73** on 13 June



33 years since Graeme Souness left for Sampdoria on 12 June 1984
50 years since Ray Clemence signed for the club on 24 June 1967
27 years since Ronny Rosenthal signed permanently on 29 June 1990
125 years since Liverpool FC was born on 3 June 1892
4 years since Simon Mignolet joined LFC on 25 June 2013

RESULTS 2016/17

Date	Opponent	Score
AUGUST		
Sun 14	Arsenal (A)	4-3
Sat 20	Burnley (A)	0-2
Tue 23	Burton (A, EFL2)	5-0
Sat 27	Tottenham (A)	1-1
SEPTEMBER		
Sat 10	Leicester City (H)	4-1
Fri 16	Chelsea (A)	2-1
Tue 20	Derby (A, EFL3)	3-0
Sat 24	Hull City (H)	5-1
OCTOBER		
Sat 1	Swansea City (A)	2-1
Mon 17	Manchester Utd (H)	0-0
Sat 22	West Brom (H)	2-1
Tue 25	Tottenham (H, EFL4)	2-1
Sat 29	Crystal Palace (A)	4-2
NOVEMBER		
Sun 6	Watford (H)	6-1
Sat 19	Southampton (A)	0-0
Sat 26	Sunderland (H)	2-0
Tue 29	Leeds Utd (H, EFL5)	2-0
DECEMBER		
Sun 4	Bournemouth (A)	3-4
Sun 11	West Ham United (H)	2-2
Wed 14	Middlesbrough (A)	3-0
Mon 19	Everton (A, 8pm)	1-0
Tue 27	Stoke City (H)	4-1
Sat 31	Manchester City (H)	1-0
JANUARY		
Mon 2	Sunderland (A)	2-2
Sun 8	Plymouth (H, FAC3)	0-0
Wed 11	Southampton (A, EFL SF 1L)	0-1
Sun 15	Manchester Utd (A)	1-1
Sun 8	Plymouth (H, FAC3)	1-0
Sat 21	Swansea City (H)	2-3
Wed 25	Southampton (H, EFL SF 2L)	0-1
Sat 28	Wolves (H, FAC4)	1-2
Tue 31	Chelsea (H)	1-1
FEBRUARY		
Sat 4	Hull City (A)	0-2
Sat 11	Tottenham (H)	2-0
Mon 27	Leicester City (A)	1-3
MARCH		
Sat 4	Arsenal (H)	3-1
Sun 12	Burnley (H)	2-1
Sun 19	Manchester City (A)	1-1
APRIL		
Sat 1	Everton (H)	3-1
Wed 5	Bournemouth (H)	2-2
Sat 8	Stoke City (A)	2-1
Sun 16	West Brom (A)	1-0
Sun 23	Crystal Palace (H)	1-2
MAY		
Mon 1	Watford (A)	1-0
Sun 7	Southampton (H)	0-0
Sat 13	West Ham United (A)	4-0
Sun 21	Middlesbrough (H)	3-0

(LFC score shown first)


L.F.C.
own
paints



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Roberto Firmino congratulates Gini Wijnaldum on his goal v Boro – but against whom did Bobby score 3 of his own 11 goals in the Prem last season? **Answer on page 98**

Braziliant goals, sensational saves, club legends and new signings

FOOTBALL



A SEASON IN THE LIFE OF ROBERTO FIRMINO

If Bobby's 2016/17 was a book, you couldn't have put it down – and here he helps us retrace ten memorable months

Let's start with the ending. "It was a perfect finale, like a good book," says Roberto Firmino when asked to sum up 2016/17. "And like a good book there were lots of twists and turns along the way as we fought to the very last page, the game against Middlesbrough at Anfield, to get the right outcome."

Perched forward on his seat in a quiet corner of Melwood, elbows on knees, he spins the last issue of the club magazine between his hands. He likes its front cover, a photograph of him celebrating a goal with Philippe Coutinho with the cheesy headline 'Braziliant! [he got the pun straightaway] How Phil and Bobby took the Premier League by storm'. Before we go on, three or so words to describe Coutinho? "Great friend. Family man. Magic."

Back to the future. "It was a great opening to the season," he continues. "Then a few games later we didn't perform so well and get the results we wanted. We lost a few times and that caused a weakness in ourselves.

IT'S BEEN LIKE A BOOK, FULL OF TWISTS AND TURNS WITH A GOOD ENDING FOR LIVERPOOL

But we recovered, we started winning games to keep us in contention for the Champions League, and we fought to the end to secure that top-four position."

Reluctant though he is to dwell on his own contribution to the cause, this was the season when Bobby Firmino came of age for Liverpool in the Premier League.

Eleven goals: five with his right foot (Leicester at home, Palace away, Watford home, Arsenal home, Stoke away); three with the left (Leicester home, Swansea home, Stoke home); and three with his head (Swansea away, Swansea home, West Brom away). One hundred shots – only Philippe Coutinho had more for Liverpool with 106. Seven assists – the same as Coutinho, two shy of Georginio Wijnaldum. And a less quantifiable but just as crucial role in the well-being of team and fans, in terms of selfless application, feel-good skills and smiles.

Two months into the season, just prior to its first international break,



In action against Boro in Anfield's sign-off show


Standard
Chartered
L.F.C.



Celebrating his goal versus Bolivia
with team-mate Renato Augusto

Image courtesy Lucas Figueiredo/CBF

Liverpool were second in the table. Having scored his first league goal of 2016/17 in the Anfield sunshine against Leicester City, in front of the newly-opened expanded Main Stand, he got his second in soggy weather at Swansea City in what was the final game of Jürgen Klopp's first year in charge.

Firmino's form was such that Brazil, under new national-team coach Tite, came calling for an October double-header in the 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifiers. Both Roberto and Reds team-mate Coutinho played and scored in a 5-0 home win over Bolivia.

That game was played in the Natal's Arena das Dunas (literally 'stadium of the sand dunes') in northeastern Brazil – near to Firmino's place of birth and the recording studio of his friend Wesley Safadao, a famous Brazilian singer. Website *Globo Sporte* described the player's appearance as a substitute thus...

'It was the second half and the *Selecao* [national team] were already four up when Tite prepared to put Firmino on in place of Gabriel Jesus. Out of nowhere, a shout began to echo in the bleachers [stands] of the stadium: "Go, Safadao!" In the press-box the journalists began to look for the singer. Then suddenly everyone realised the shots were for the striker who was about to enter the field. It seemed to inspire Firmino, who scored the second half's only goal. Afterwards he said: "I really like his songs but I can't sing like him – it's only the hair that is similar."

Five days later Firmino watched from the bench but didn't play as Brazil won 2-0 in Venezuela, but a further call-up was likely should he maintain his club form. Back in England, on the last Saturday of October he scored a peach away to Crystal Palace, running onto Jordan Henderson's pass and deftly chipping over the keeper in a 4-2 win which extended Liverpool's unbeaten run to eleven games.

HE PREPARED TO COME ON WHEN SUDDENLY FROM THE STANDS CAME THE CRY OF 'GO SAFADAO!'

The following week he was on target in the 6-1 drubbing of Watford at Anfield which featured some smooth goal celebrations involving Coutinho and Sadio Mane and inspired by Safadao's music.

In that month's club magazine Firmino explained how his slim build belied strength and stamina: "It's about your psychology – if you think you are strong, you are really strong, and I class myself as a strong player. There is no fear.

"I was adapted to European football after playing in Germany for three years [with Hoffenheim] but English football is different to the Bundesliga. The Premier League is faster and you do need to adjust, but this is the type of football that I enjoy."

A year after he'd arrived, the Kop was seeing the real Firmino: not just a player of undoubted ability but a smart exponent of game-management, pressing high up to hustle goalies and defenders, or dropping off as part of a compact unit against possession teams – to excellent effect in the 1-0 win over Manchester City on New Year's Eve.

In Mane's absence (on January duty with Senegal in the Africa Cup of Nations) and with injuries to other key players, Firmino led the line during a difficult time for Liverpool and displayed the physical side to his game with two emphatically-taken


A Safadao-inspired celebration after his goal at Crystal Palace





Scoring in Sydney

goals at home to Swansea City. The first was a powerful header, the second a left-footed drive which, looking back now, he classes as his personal favourite of the season.

"If you asked me for the best three goals I scored, I'd say Palace away in third place, the one at Stoke next, and then that second goal against Swansea. We were 2-1 down when Gini [Wijnaldum] won the ball on the left and I realised that he was going to cross it. I had to react very quickly and I dominated the ball with my chest. My only thought then was to shoot straightaway."

By early March the Reds were rediscovering their early-season form with Roberto on target in the 3-1 home win over Arsenal – another blistering team performance against one the Premier League's top sides.

In an interview with the programme that Saturday evening he said: "Clearly it's good that we've been doing well against the teams higher up the table. I don't really know why we have had these difficulties [with consistency] but we are trying to sort it out. Our confidence is returning. We're working harder and harder to get back on a winning streak."

Along came a third and fourth international cap in quick succession at the end of March, in place of City's injured ace Gabriel Jesus. Early on Brazil went a goal down away to Uruguay – the first time they'd been behind in Tite's reign – but came back to win 4-1, with Paulinho (formerly of

THERE ARE PLAYERS AND THERE ARE LEVELS, AND HE'S ABSOLUTELY TOP LEVEL

Spurs) scoring a hat-trick, the second goal after a Firmino shot could only be parried. A 3-0 home win over Paraguay, in which Coutinho scored, then booked Brazil's place in the finals in Russia. Within hours the Liverpool duo were flying back to England by private jet for an imminent April Fool's Day derby at Anfield.

Coutinho, Paulinho and of course Neymar were grabbing most of the headlines but there was talk too about Firmino, not least from Tite who revealed: "We had no reason to change our style of play because of Jesus' absence, but we needed to understand the characteristics of Firmino which are different. He's having a great moment [with Liverpool], scoring and making goals, and this justifies his inclusion."

Previously there'd been high praise from Ronaldinho, the former Brazil and Barcelona ace: "I never doubted that Firmino would be a great player for Liverpool. He's one of the best in the world in what he does, in the same class as Ozil, David Silva, Iniesta and all the other great players. Klopp knows that Firmino needs the best alongside him to do even better. I am sure that with [him] at the centre of the team, there is no reason Liverpool cannot fight for titles."

Dovetail this with more recent comments from Steven Gerrard having played alongside Roberto in the Sydney friendly: "A very intelligent footballer. He's on that same wavelength – he sees things. There are players and there are levels, and he's absolutely top-level."

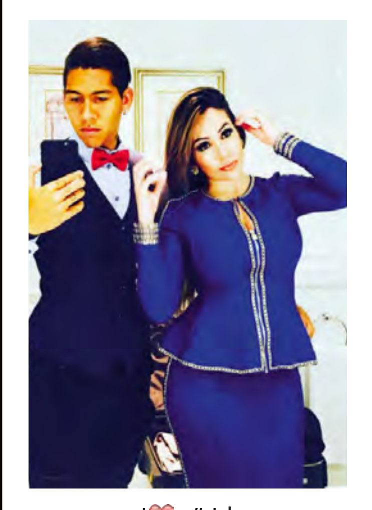
So to April and the two Firmino goals which played such a vital role in securing that Champions League qualifying berth: the thumping drive at Stoke City and the opportunistic header at West Brom. "Important goals," he says, "but how we performed as a team was more important, adapting to games against difficult opponents away from home to get the right result.

"It was great to reach the last game [at home to Middlesbrough] and have something important to play for. Last season it was sad that we had no European games but we worked hard and now we're really looking forward to them next season. We'll have more games to play but, as I've said before, I would play twice a week if I could – it shows the team is moving in the right direction."

So is Roberto Firmino. Wait for it, but his best could be yet to come.

Interview by: David Cottrell

WHAT A SHOT!
BOBBY'S BEST INSTAGRAM POSTS



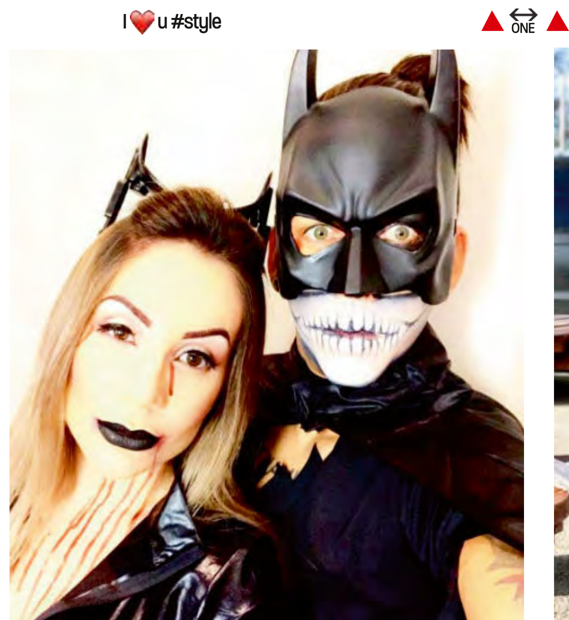
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Happy new year 2️⃣0️⃣1️⃣7️⃣ @larissa_peereira #ynwa #iLoveYouBaby


“ABSOLUTELY
BRIL
EMRE CAN
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LANT
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EMRE CAN"
LFC Goal of the Season.
BBC Match of the Day
Goal of the Season.
Here's how Emre did it...



No team scored more Premier League goals from outside the penalty area than Liverpool last season.

From Philippe Coutinho's free-kick at Arsenal on the opening weekend of the 2016/17 campaign to his free-kick at Anfield against Middlesbrough on the final day, the Reds netted 13 times from outside the 18-yard box, one more than closest rivals Chelsea and Tottenham.

Yet, when it comes to Liverpool's goal of the season competition, it was a goal scored inside the penalty area that was the best of the 92 Jürgen Klopp's men amassed in all competitions.

Emre Can's bicycle-kick goal at Watford in May was a worldie. A one-off. The type of goal you might see on EA Sports' FIFA 2017 but not during the intensity of a crucial Premier League game. And, as Liverpool boss Klopp put it, not a goal you'd expect from Liverpool's number 23.

"Obviously it was a spectacular one," said Klopp. "He scored this bicycle-kick that was pretty special, it was wonderful. I would like to say I'm used to it but it's not the truth, especially not from Emre! I'm sure he can play better than tonight but I'm not sure he can score one much better."

IT WAS A SPECTACULAR ONE. I'M NOT SURE HE CAN SCORE ONE MUCH BETTER

How do you score one better? It'll take some serious doing.

Liverpool players have scored overhead-kicks and bicycle-kicks before. Christian Benteke fired one home against Manchester United at Old Trafford just a month before Klopp was appointed as Liverpool manager.

Sebastian Coates' only goal in a Red shirt was a stunning overhead-kick at QPR (2012), while if you go back a little further you'll recall Peter Crouch netted two such spectacular goals in front of the Kop against Galatasaray (2006) and Bolton Wanderers (2007).

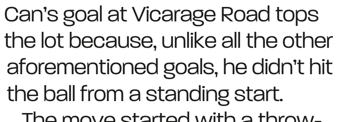
Robbie Fowler looped an overhead finish down at Charlton Athletic in 2001 to help secure qualification for the Champions League while no travelling Kopite in Blackburn Rovers' Darwen End at Ewood Park in 1994 will ever forget John Barnes' bicycle-kick past Tim Flowers.

But, in terms of technique, of contact with the ball and in importance to the result, Emre

Can's goal at Vicarage Road tops the lot because, unlike all the other aforementioned goals, he didn't hit the ball from a standing start.

The move started with a throw-in on the Liverpool right. Adam Lallana's cheeky drag-back pass gave Divock Origi space and as the Belgian received the ball Can set off on a forward run from a deep-lying midfield position.

By the time Origi's pass reached the feet of Lucas, Can was still over 25 yards from goal but making headway towards the penalty area. As he advanced, Roberto Firmino began to jog away from the 18-yard box, prompting Hornets centre-half Adrian Marippa to follow him, opening up a space in behind. Lucas immediately spotted this and pinged a delightfully-chipped pass for Can to run onto as Nordin Amrabat belatedly tracked his run.



Can was now just inside the penalty box and normally in such a situation a player would try to direct a header towards goal or attempt to bring the ball down on his chest and get a shot away. Not Emre.

The German checked his run slightly, flung both legs into the air, swivelled his body and connected with the ball with his right foot at head hight. Heurelho Gomes didn't even dive.

"Emre Can with the overhead," screamed LFC TV commentator John Bradley. "Oh it's an astonishing goal. Absolutely brilliant from Emre Can."

Watford's fans would agree. Many sat behind the goal open-mouthed in shock, others instinctively applauded – sure-fire signs it was a cracker.

Not only did Emre's strike prove to be a vital winner, it also landed him both the BBC Match of the Day goal of the season and LFC goal of the season awards and has been turned into this fantastic illustration here by Dave Will Design. The last word, however, must go to the man himself.

"I saw the space and then I ran behind. When the ball came, I wanted to head it but it was a great ball from Lucas. I just didn't think too much and I scored a beauty like that. I think it's the best goal I've ever scored."



WHAT THE PAPERS SAID

The Guardian: "Can will never score a better goal than the scissor-kick which claimed the spoils in this corner of Hertfordshire. His leap, almost balletic in its execution, was timed perfectly to meet Lucas Leiva's pass. He flung himself diagonally towards the penalty spot. Neither Nordin Amrabat nor Sebastian Prödl was in any kind of position to repel the centre but the German's connection still needed to be sweet and true to find the corner. Heurelho Gomes, never anticipating such improvised brilliance, was too shocked to move but he would not have reached the ball anyway. "I have never scored a goal like that," said a grinning Can. "Maybe when I was younger...no, that is the best I have ever scored." The Premier League may not have seen a better one this season, for all the eye-catching scorpion kicks and overheads which children have been attempting to mimic with glee in parks for months. They have new inspiration for the summer."

Daily Mirror: "Just when it seemed the first half would be instantly forgettable, Can produced a wonderful piece of skill which would light up any game. Lucas Leiva, who had just been booked for diving, chipped forwards to Can, the Germany midfielder then produced a flying overhead kick, smashing the ball into the top corner with his right foot from 20 yards. It must be a goal of the season contender."

Liverpool Echo: "Lallana and Origi combined to find Lucas, who spotted Can's burst into the box and clipped an inviting lofted pass in his direction. What followed was simply sensational as the former Bayer Leverkusen man launched himself into a bicycle kick 14 yards out – the ball arrowing beyond Gomes and into the corner. The travelling Kop erupted with Can's celebrations taking him up to the halfway line and into the welcoming arms of his jubilant manager before he was mobbed by his team-mates."

Watford Observer: "The Hornets looked like they would successfully get through to half-time but in the second minute of injury time they were undone by a moment of brilliance. The goal originated from a throw-in on the right, the ball was worked back and infield to Lucas, who clipped it forward into the penalty area where Can took off and struck a magnificent right-footed overhead kick inside the right-hand post as the helpless Gomes could only stand and admire."

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FIVE OF THE BEST

Given the quantity and quality it's not been easy, but we pick our own favourite Liverpool goals

JORDAN HENDERSON v Chelsea (A) Friday 16 September 2016 Neil Haines (art editor)

Quite often my Saturday afternoon/whole weekend would be ruined by a bad result, and this cheeky fixture threatened to ruin my Friday night too. There was nothing for it but to cheer on my team as usual.

A visit to the Bridge is a stern test for any team. The Reds were trying to make this two wins on the bounce having seen off Leicester a week earlier with a 4-1 thumping. The problem was, I was worrying about which Liverpool side was going to turn up, having slumped to a disappointing 0-2 defeat to the newly-promoted Burnley already this season.

Chelsea were so far unbeaten under the newly-recruited Conte so three points was going to be a tough ask for the Reds. However, 16 minutes in and Liverpool were on the scoresheet with a fine close-range volley by Dejan Lovren. Then a poor clearance by Gary Cahill arrived at the feet of Henderson who, from 32 yards out, smashed it right into the top corner – nothing Courtois could do about that despite his despairing dive.

Two-nil up after 35 minutes. Wow! And this was surely an early contender for goal of season. Liverpool conceded in the 60th minute to Diego Costa, 2-1 game-on, or so people thought. We managed to hold on and move level on points after five games.

I could now enjoy my weekend and not be too concerned at the other results for once.

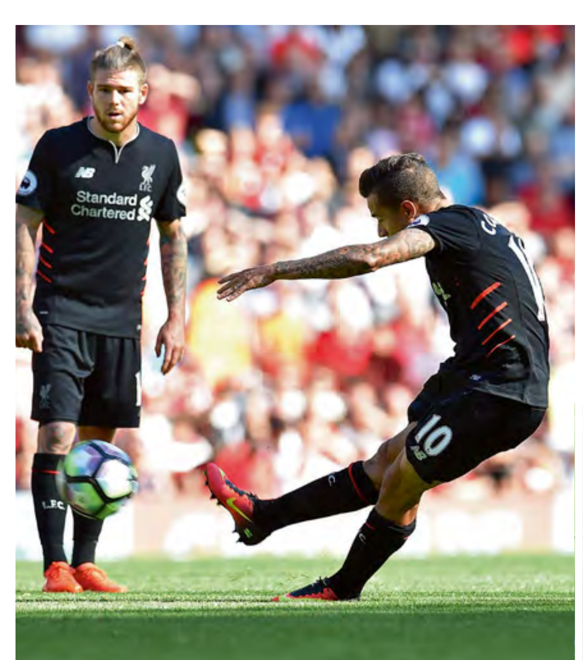








PHILIPPE COUTINHO v Arsenal (A) Sunday 14 Aug 2016 William Hughes (assistant editor)



Sadio Mane's debut strike is saluted elsewhere in this feature but I'm going for another goal from the opening weekend.

The final 15 minutes of the first half of that game at The Emirates had been a tricky time for Jürgen Klopp's men. Simon Mignolet had denied Theo Walcott from the spot but the England forward put the Gunners ahead soon afterwards. On the stroke of half-time, however, Liverpool won a free-kick when Philippe Coutinho was fouled 25 yards from goal. The no10 dusted himself down before sizing up the set-piece. Reds fans have grown used to moments of magic from the Brazilian but what happened next was exquisite both in its execution and its timing.

Coutinho whipped the ball right-footed up and over the defensive wall and down in time to beat the dive of Petr Cech and nestle into the corner of the net. It put the Reds on terms going into the break and provided a platform from which they would move into a 4-1 lead.

As someone who grew up admiring the free-kicks of Zico, I've always been a sucker for a set-play from a Brazilian no10. So my goal of the season was the very first of the campaign. Coutinho's effort was described as "genius" by Klopp. I wouldn't disagree!





Liverpool Football Club



Season Review 2016/17

RELIVE AND OWN

- ALL THE GOALS
- ALL THE DRAMA
- ALL THE HIGHLIGHTS

Liverpool Football Club
Season Review 2016/17
INCLUDES HIGHLIGHTS AND EVERY GOAL FROM THE SEASON
PREMIER LEAGUE, LEAGUE CUP & FA CUP
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SADIO MANE v Arsenal (A) Sunday 14 August 2016 Chris McLoughlin (senior writer)

I always imagine the mythical computer that randomly generates the fixture list to be a sinister contraption that plots to send Liverpool to the North East on midweeks when it's so cold even the girls in Newcastle wear cardigans while our rivals get sunny seaside trips to Bournemouth in April.

But when Arsenal v Liverpool popped out as the 2016/17 opener my eyes lit up as thoughts of Barnes, Beardsley and Aldridge, dressed in stylish silver, gliding past the Gunners at Highbury in the first game of 1987/88 came flooding back. But that was then, this was now and Liverpool never win at The Emirates. Right?

Wrong. The boys got off to a flyer with a superb 4-3 victory and Sadio Mane scored as good a debut goal as you could see.

Running onto a chipped Adam Lallana pass down the right, Mane turned the jet-heels on to leave Calum Chambers chasing, cut back inside Nacho Monreal at pace and curled an absolute beauty off his weaker left foot past Petr Cech into the top corner.

Mane ran off to celebrate with his new manager and there were scenes in the away end, although not quite as wild as when he scored *that* last-minute winner at Everton to spark the Shakin' Stevens-inspired song of the season. But let's not be thinking of favourite Christmas memories just yet, eh?



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SADIO MANE v WBA (H) Saturday 22 Oct 2016 Michael McGuinness (production editor)



Mane's opener in the 2-1 win over West Brom at Anfield in October stands out as a perfect blueprint in how to score against opponents happy to sit back and stifle the Reds' attacking football philosophy.

Liverpool had blown away champions Leicester and newly-promoted Hull in front of the new Main Stand but found the going tougher against an overly-defensive Manchester United as the third home fixture of the season ended goalless. Teams visiting Anfield seemingly content with a point would become a trend of the season and Jürgen Klopp's side would have to find a solution.

This goal saw the Reds move from back to front in the blink of an eye with a defence as organised as any powerless to stop it. Approaching the midway point of the first half, Adam Lallana wins possession on half-way and finds James Milner at left-back. The no7's first-time ball towards Philippe Coutinho is then smartly dummied by the Brazilian into the path of Emre Can, taking West Brom's entire midfield out of the game without even touching the ball.

With the Baggies on the back foot, Can's 30-yard burst ends with him laying-off to Roberto Firmino on the left-hand edge of the area, and his inch-perfect cross allows Mane to volley home – the ultimate example of how to break down a stubborn defence.

ROBERTO FIRMINO v Swansea City (H) Saturday 21 January 2017 David Cottrell (editor)

For me, the best Anfield kick-off time is 5.30pm on a Saturday; by the time the game's up it'd be rude not to see in Saturday night with a swift one in Breck Road's finest when the mood is right.

Sunday afternoons, meh. Saturday lunchtimes? All depends on the outcome: a win come half-past-two and everyone's up for it; a defeat and upstairs at the Twelfth Man you can hear a pin-badge drop (almost) ahead of a sour-faced football-swerving weekend. Which was the case after this 3-2 defeat by Swansea City in the middle of that dismal month of January.

And yet, despite the brow-smoting stats (74% possession, 16 shots to their six, the end of an impressive run of 17 top-flight fixtures unbeaten at home) there was at least the consolation of seeing one of Anfield's best goals of last season. Actually make that three – Roberto Firmino's first for us and Fernando Llorente's second for the Swans weren't bad either – but it's Bobby's strike on 69 minutes that gets my vote.

At two-one down, to have the wherewithal to leap high and stun Wijnaldum's looping cross with his chest, with three opponents in close proximity, then sweep home on the half-volley on his 'weaker' foot, showed the kind of world-class finish the Kop arguably hadn't seen since the days of Suarez.

Pity Gylfi Sigurdsson had to spoil it all five minutes later. How's Man City-Tottenham going? Don't know. Don't care. Not interested.












Standard



SPOILER ALERT

Young Reds rain on Blues' title parade with mini-derby success at Goodison



Connor Randall and Trent Alexander-Arnold walk out ahead of the Under-23s final Premier League 2 game of the 2016/17 season. Liverpool's victory over Manchester City a couple of weeks earlier meant Everton were champions and would be presented with the trophy following this mini-derby duel at Goodison Park. The young Reds were determined to spoil their party...

Liverpool's Under-23s prepare for action with Sheyi Ojo, Connor Randall and Trent Alexander-Arnold led out by captain Harry Wilson (bottom left) watched by manager Mike Garrity (bottom right). The Reds were hoping to emulate the first-team by completing a league double over the Blues with the U23s having secured a 2-0 win at Prenton Park in November...





Ben Woodburn is pictured in the thick of the action (top left) before Liverpool take the lead when skipper Harry Wilson dispossesses Blues centre-back Matthew Pennington and tees up Sheyi Ojo to sidefoot a shot beyond Everton keeper Mateusz Hewelt (middle left). He is congratulated by Wilson and the rest of his team-mates (bottom)...

Marko Grujic takes on Gethin Jones (top right) while Ben Woodburn tries to find a way through the Blues' backline as Liverpool look to add to their advantage. Grujic later provides a fine assist for the Reds to do just that with Trent Alexander-Arnold executing a fine finish (bottom right) with a precise angled drive into the far corner of the net.











Trent and his team-mates are clearly thrilled with his goal as they enjoy their celebrations and although Calum Dyson pulls one back for the Blues courtesy of a deflection late on, the visitors hold out to secure a satisfying 2-1 victory over their neighbours. The scoreboard at full-time (bottom right) takes some of the shine off Everton's night.

photos by Nick taylor

MAKING A BIG SAVE IS SIMILAR TO SCORING A GOAL...ONLY DIFFERENT!

Simon Mignolet on those crucial stops which kept the Reds in the hunt for a top-four spot, and next season's Champions League challenge



No matter what Liverpool FC achieves, our club will always have its critics. It comes with the territory.

Take the Reds' qualification for the Champions League qualifying round next season, for instance. Anfield was buzzing during the 3-0 final-day win against Middlesbrough while happy Kopites all over the world understood the significance – both on and off the pitch – of being back in the running for a trophy we've proudly won five times.

Yet LFC's illustrious history is used as a stick to beat us with by some, the suggestion being that celebrating a top-four finish is a dumbing down of expectations and acceptable achievements given the successes of previous generations. Such a criticism fails to look at the club's recent fortunes in true context.

Since December 2009 the Reds have played just six Champions League games, all of them in the 2014/15 group stage, with our last knock-out stage match coming in April 2009. Having not been involved for so long, a top-four finish and return to European Cup action is an achievement worthy of enjoying, especially given how many points were required to finish in a qualifying position. Sixty-six points was enough for fourth in 2015/16, Liverpool took 76 this time around with fifth-placed Arsenal finishing on 75 – four more than they accumulated when ending last season as runners-up. Standards are rising, and the Liver Bird is rising with them.

THIS CLUB HAS ALWAYS BEEN ABOUT FIGHTING AT THE TOP, BOTH IN ENGLAND AND IN EUROPE

Having arrived on Merseyside in 2013, Simon Mignolet is well aware of just how difficult claiming a top-four spot is and the Liverpool goalkeeper, who made his 180th appearance for the club in the 3-0 win against Middlesbrough that clinched fourth place, believes it symbolises a good, progressive season for LFC.

"We knew at the beginning of the season it was going to be tough to fight for a top-four spot because there is lots of competition," he says. "All the big clubs in the Premier




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League go for it and last season Leicester were fighting for it and won the league, so a lot of teams come into play.

"We have now got that top-four spot and it is not only what we wanted but what the history of Liverpool Football Club is about. This club has always been about fighting at the top, both in England and in Europe, and next season we will be playing on the biggest stage in both.

"Everything we have experienced playing under this manager is important. Last year we got to the League Cup and the Europa League finals but we lost; this year we fought for a top-four spot and achieved it. We've had a couple of very exciting seasons and as a club and a team we can look back on this being a good year."

Mignolet's 31 appearances this term have been his fewest in a season for Liverpool, with a mixture of no European football and losing his place to Loris Karius for part of the campaign key contributors to playing a lesser number of games. Since

















A word from the boss during the lap of appreciation

returning to the starting XI, however, his form has been exceptionally good and he believes there is a case for saying 2016/17 has been his best season as an LFC player.

"Individually I think I can be very pleased with how I responded to when I was out of the team earlier this season. I came back and I showed what I could do to help the team in certain games, especially towards the end of the season where I performed well in certain moments to try to help the team get victories and points, which was pleasing for me personally.

"I also look back on the progression we've made in how we have to deal with teams who sit back and look for a counter-attack or a set-piece, such as the games away to West Brom, Watford and West Ham. I was not only involved in making saves in those games but also dealing with crosses in the box and set-pieces.

"There are other important moments I look back to as well such as the penalty-save I made from Diego Costa at Anfield and even the first game of the season away to

THIS HAS BEEN MY FOURTH SEASON AT LIVERPOOL AND HAS ARGUABLY BEEN MY BEST

Arsenal when I also saved a penalty from Theo Walcott.

"This has been my fourth season at Liverpool and I think it has arguably been my best season here."

Mignolet kept clean-sheets in those three vital wins at The Hawthorns, Vicarage Road and the London Stadium, while he also made some crucial interventions during the 2-1 victory against Stoke at the Bet365 Stadium with his saves from Charlie Adam and Saido Berahino at point-blank range as good as you can get. Talk of that match prompts me to ask whether he gets more confidence from keeping clean-sheets in games when he's had little to do, or from making a big save in a match the Reds win but when he has also conceded.

"Confidence for goalkeepers is more about making important saves that help you win games. For example, away to West Brom I only had one save to make but if I hadn't made it [from Matt Phillips] we would probably have drawn that game or maybe even lost it.

"Stoke was another game where we came out of the dressing-room at half-time and we knew we were struggling. We were 1-0 behind so it was a very important moment in the season to keep the Champions League spot alive when I made a save [from Charlie Adam] and then obviously we needed the Brazilians to score the goals to win the game.

"I think that changed the spirit in the dressing-room – it was a big moment in the season and was more important to me than keeping a clean-sheet."

Moments after Philippe Coutinho and Roberto Firmino had made



Looking sharp in the 125th anniversary kit


An embrace from Loris Karius after the Reds secured Champions League football

it 2-1 at Stoke, Mignolet made an astonishing save from Berahino that Jürgen Klopp described as "one of the best I have ever seen," so I put it to Mignolet that making such stops must be the goalkeeping equivalent of scoring a winning goal?

"No," he replies, "it's different because you don't win games only by making saves but at the same time saves are important, especially for momentum. We still had to score two goals at Stoke to win, so it was thanks to the boys upfront that we did that.

"A penalty-save is probably the nearest you can get to scoring a goal when you're a keeper in terms of the feeling, but it is still a different scenario. What I would say is making a big save as a goalkeeper is a similar experience to a striker scoring a goal, but it's not exactly the same."

What is crystal clear is that Mignolet's saves were crucial in helping the Reds win some tricky looking fixtures, bringing us onto the debate about how many points a goalkeeper can earn his side during the course of a 38-game Premier League season. It's not something he's totted up on a personal level but will think about during the close-season.

CONFIDENCE FOR GOALKEEPERS IS ABOUT MAKING IMPORTANT SAVES THAT HELP YOU WIN GAMES

"I haven't looked into that yet, I'll only think about it when I'm away on holiday, but for me personally it is more important to be successful with the team and the squad.

"Liverpool getting into the Champions League is far more important than the amount of points I have won – or lost – for the team throughout the season. It gives us the

platform again to go for that trophy next year and this is what I want and what the lads in the dressing-room want.

"Last year we had the chance to play in two finals, but unfortunately we lost both of them. We have learned from that and I think everybody – not only the players, but also the fans and everybody connected with Liverpool Football Club – is really hungry for silverware. That's what we have to challenge for next year."

Of course if Liverpool are to challenge for Champions League glory there is a qualifying play-off to negotiate first and that will mean a big European night at Anfield in August. It'll be 4 August before our opponents are known, but the 29-year-old is looking forward to European football again already.

"The European nights at Anfield are brilliant. I experienced games against Real Madrid in the Champions League when we were last in the Champions League and obviously last year we had big nights in the Europa League against Manchester United and Borussia Dortmund.

EVERYBODY IS VERY PLEASED WE WILL HAVE MORE EUROPEAN GAMES TO LOOK FORWARD TO

"They were both very special and everybody here is very pleased to know we will have more European games to look forward to next season."

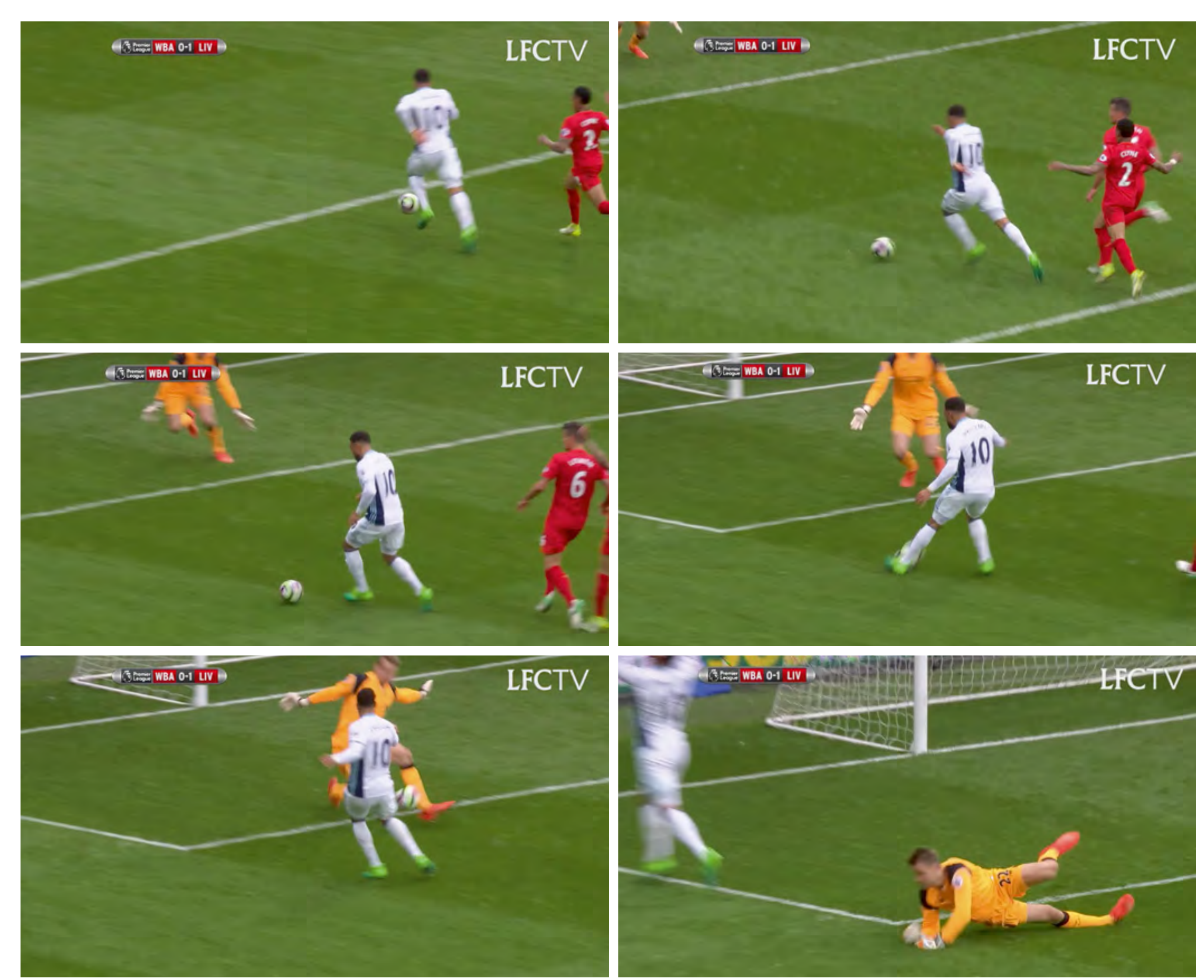
If Liverpool's obvious progress under Klopp is to continue in 2017/18 then it's fair to say most Kopites would agree on two things that need to improve: defending from set-pieces and beating mid-to-lower table sides more consistently. Mignolet is well aware of those issues and believes there has already been improvement on both scores during the final months of the campaign.

"We've worked as a team on set-pieces throughout the whole season. It's not only me and it's not an individual thing, it's about defending as a unit.

"I think I've matured individually and together we've matured as a squad. We knew after January we had to change something when we played against those teams who sit back, play on the counter-attack and play for set-pieces against us. I think we've learned from that, come a long way and we showed that we have steel against Stoke, West Brom, Watford, Burnley at home and even with the clean-sheet at home to Southampton.

"We have to take this on going forward because we have shown, especially against the top teams, that we are more than capable of competing with them and getting the better of them, but we should have seen more games out against the other teams lower down the table."

We'll all know when next season's fixtures are scheduled to come around on 14 June, the day the



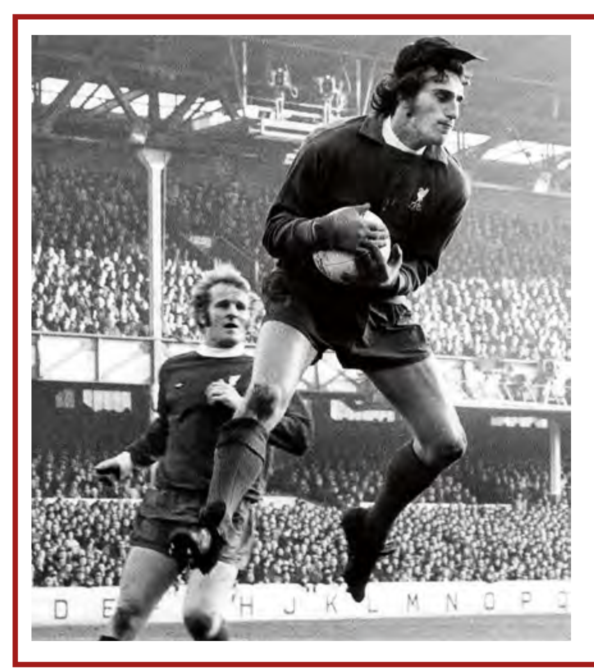
Words: Chris McLoughlin

Premier League fixture list is revealed. A raft of changes for TV coverage will subsequently follow, but it doesn't make fixture-list announcement day any less exciting. Although Mignolet will be on his post-season break after Belgium's World Cup qualifier away to Ragnar Klavan's Estonia five days earlier, he'll be keen to analyse the list as soon as it is announced.

"I always look forward to the fixture calendar being released, especially for the family so they can plan trips to come and see the games when they know which ones should be the most exciting to watch.

"Last year we had three games away from home at the start because of the new Main Stand and every year we look at the early fixtures because we want to start the season well.

"It is very important to start at a good level, in a good way so hopefully we have an exciting calendar to look forward to and it proves to be a good season for Liverpool Football Club."



IN AT 10...

It was a milestone that slipped by, so under the radar that Simon Mignolet wasn't even aware of it himself, but when Liverpool won 1-0 at West Brom in April the Belgian international keeper moved into the top 10 of the club's all-time clean-sheets list.

That shut-out edged him ahead of 1946/47 title-winning keeper Cyril Sidlow (who kept 54 clean-sheets between 1946 and 1950) and Mignolet is now only the second LFC keeper to occupy a top 10 position having played less than 200 games for the club, Jerzy Dudek being the other.

While eclipsing table-topper Ray Clemence looks nigh-on impossible for any Reds goalie – Clem kept a clean-sheet in almost every other game, quite an achievement when you've been between the sticks 665 times – Mignolet is delighted to be among such illustrious company. Anfield legend Clem highlighted his "game-changing saves" at Stoke, West Brom and Watford as being "crucial to Liverpool's hopes of making the Champions League."

"I've only played here at Liverpool Football Club for four seasons so it is nice to be on the list," he says. "Sometimes the best reward for playing for Liverpool is to hear this [praise] from these kind of legends who've shown so much over the years and brought so much to the club."

	Starts	Sub	Clean-sheets
1. Ray Clemence	665	0	323
2. Bruce Grobbelaar	628	0	267.63
3. Pepe Reina	394	0	177
4. Elisha Scott	468	0	137
5. Tommy Lawrence	390	0	133
6. David James	276	1	102.68
7. Jerzy Dudek	184	2	76.26
8. Arthur Riley	338	0	69
9. Sam Hardy	240	0	63
10. Simon Mignolet	179	1	58.82

Full table at **www.lfchistory.net.** Goalkeepers substituted, sent off or brought on during games without conceding have been credited with a percentage of a full clean-sheet.

BILL RAN OUT ONTO THE STREET OUTSIDE ANFIELD, FOUND A COUPLE OF PENSIONERS, ONE LIMPING, THE OTHER WITH BACKACHE. "PUT THEM ON THE MACHINE, BOB," HE INSTRUCTED, AND PAISLEY OBLIGED...

A brilliant new book chronicles how Bob Paisley the player reinvented himself as Bob the builder, Bob the physio, and ultimately Bob the all-conquering manager



Bob in his Anfield home

Bob Paisley. Liverpool Football Club's most successful manager. Fourteen major trophies in nine years. Six of them league titles. Three of them European Cups. Three of them League Cups. With a UEFA Cup and European Super Cup on the list too.

That's without mentioning the league title he won as a Liverpool player in 1946/47. Or his six Manager of the Year awards. Or the fact that the Reds finished second in two of the three campaigns when they didn't win the league under Paisley's stewardship. Or that they also lost four other cup finals (FA Cup, League Cup, Super Cup and World Club Championship) during his nine seasons in charge at Anfield.

Chances are, being an avid Red and a reader of this magazine, you knew all that already. But do you know what was happening in the background at Anfield to pave the way for the most successful managerial era that LFC has ever enjoyed?

To coincide with the 40th anniversary of Liverpool's historic first European Cup success in Rome, a new book – *Quiet Genius: Bob Paisley, British Football's Greatest Manager* – has been published by Bloomsbury Sport.

Written by *The Independent*'s chief sportswriter Ian Herbert, it tells the story of Paisley's life and career based upon in-depth interviews with Bob's family and the players he led to glory between 1974 and 1983.

Of course Rome 77, Wembley 78, Paris 81 and all the other trophy-laden years feature, but it's the stories behind both those successes and Paisley's early Anfield days that makes *Quiet Genius* so readable.

From his North East mining roots to his relationship with wife Jessie; his dry sense of humour to his unforgiving, emotionless ability to make tough decisions; his man-management techniques to his visionary outlook... all aspects of Paisley the man and Paisley the manager are analysed.

One revealing passage explains how Bob had managed to remain at Anfield, after the club decided not to renew his playing contract following Liverpool's relegation in 1954, ensuring he was still there when Bill Shankly took over as manager in 1959. It also explores the early days of his relationship with Shanks when he was working as club physiotherapist.

We've kindly been given permission to publish the following extract for Liverpool FC magazine readers.

Sit back, read and enjoy...

It was not so much an arrival as an earthquake when Bill Shankly first walked into Anfield as manager. The club was 'a shambles of a place', he later said, and the 40-year-old Bob Paisley must have looked a very small figure in the background.

It was 1959 and Liverpool Football Club had become moribund, marooned in football's second tier for five years, and showing little material sign of getting out. There was not even a means to water the pitch when the new manager took his first look around the place: just a pipe from the visitors' dressing-room and a tap. The £13,000 needed to put that right was one of his first investments.

The Melwood training ground consisted of an old wooden pavilion with a veranda and an air-raid shelter. Instilling new life into this barren landscape needed noise, drive and monumental powers of inspiration. Shankly had them all. His appointment at Liverpool's helm was the most significant landmark in Paisley's football life because without Shankly there would've been none of what was to follow in his own career.

Paisley was still there at Anfield because, whatever it took, he had made himself indispensable. The former captain and league championship winner had certainly not been too proud to furnish Liverpool with his old bricklaying skills.



Overseeing training with Billy Liddell and co

BOB BUILT THE NEW MANAGER'S DUGOUT AND PLUMBED THE TOILETS ON THE KEMLYN ROAD

He built the new manager's dugout that Shankly would sit in, as well as a section of terrace known as the 'bandbox', where the squad's unused players would stand. He plumbed the toilets at the back of the Kemlyn Road terrace and then painted them.

"Come on, you look a strong lad," he told Tommy Smith, a trainee defender, one day in 1960. They ended up going under the Kop roof, cutting out a girder that had become an obstruction and cementing a new one in its place. He devised a system for putting up the half-time scores. The old slots which took the numbers had gone rusty. Yet Paisley also knew that being the odd-job man was not enough. He needed to find some relevance.

It was in football's fledgling science of physiotherapy that he saw it. He was aware from his playing experiences of the prehistoric way players were dealt with.

Liverpool's resident sponge man, Albert Shelley, was a practitioner of the 'hot and cold towels' treatment. That entailed brandishing tweezers to withdraw a towel from a bucket of red-hot water, slapping it on a player's offending injury, then repeating the process with an ice-cold towel.

Paisley had been particularly alarmed by a game in which his old friend Billy Liddell was knocked unconscious in a collision, prompting Shelley, known for the distinctive white coat in which he carried out his duties, simply to ask the striker to run around on the sidelines. Shelley pushed Liddell back out onto the field, just before the half-time interval, to complete the game. Even by Paisley's standards of forbearance, this was extreme.

He asked Liddell after the game how he was feeling. "What do you mean?" Liddell asked him. "The knock you took . . .?" replied Paisley. Liddell remembered no "knock." He had been severely concussed at best, half-conscious at worst.

Paisley had been struck as early as 1950, the year he was left out of the FA Cup final side, that this area of work might offer him a way of staying in football. By then, he had already taken up a correspondence course which would qualify him to be a physiotherapist and masseur when his playing days were over. "We married men have to look to the future, you know," he told the *Liverpool Evening Express* that year.

Medical practices were becoming more common in football by the mid-1950s. Some clubs had hired trained physiotherapists, and the Pinderfields Hospital in Wakefield, Yorkshire, provided a course for footballer trainers in remedial gymnastics. But

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HE ASKED THE CLUB IF HE COULD SPEND TIME IN ACCIDENT DEPARTMENTS IN HOSPITALS

Paisley found himself to be surplus to playing requirements at a newly-relegated second-tier team in 1954 and needed to be imaginative if he was to catch the wave.

He asked the club's board member Thomas Valentine (TV) Williams, a wealthy cotton broker, if he could begin spending time in the accident departments of some of the Liverpool hospitals to watch basic injuries – sprains and muscle tears – being treated.

Williams, who had been enlightened enough to buy the land in West Derby which would become the Melwood training ground, was a close friend of the Liverpool retail entrepreneur John Moores, who had connections in the city. Williams obtained a signed letter from Moores, asking that Paisley be granted access to the hospitals where he might pick up medical knowledge, supplementing his correspondence course.

Paisley's zeal evidently impressed the management. Williams offered him the role of reserve-team trainer, allowing him to stay on after his failure to make the retained player list. The reserves were a vehicle for players recovering from injury, or young players requiring a game – winning or losing was immaterial.


Helping an injured Emlyn Hughes from the field

Paisley wanted to begin making the side competitive, and Liverpool agreed. He pasted up a note on the notice-board stating that from now on he wanted a reserve team that went into every match with the objective of winning. Within a year, he had led the team to the runners-up position in the Central League, behind a Manchester United side that included many of the young players who would go on to play for Matt Busby. His second-string team were champions the following year.

From fixing toilets to running the reserve side, Paisley had made himself part of Liverpool's fixtures and fittings and, in May 1957, the club announced that he was to become 'chief coach' to manager Phil Taylor, his former Liverpool team-mate, who had been dropped from the retained player list at the same time. Taylor had been made manager following a year as caretaker, after the dismissal of Don Welsh.

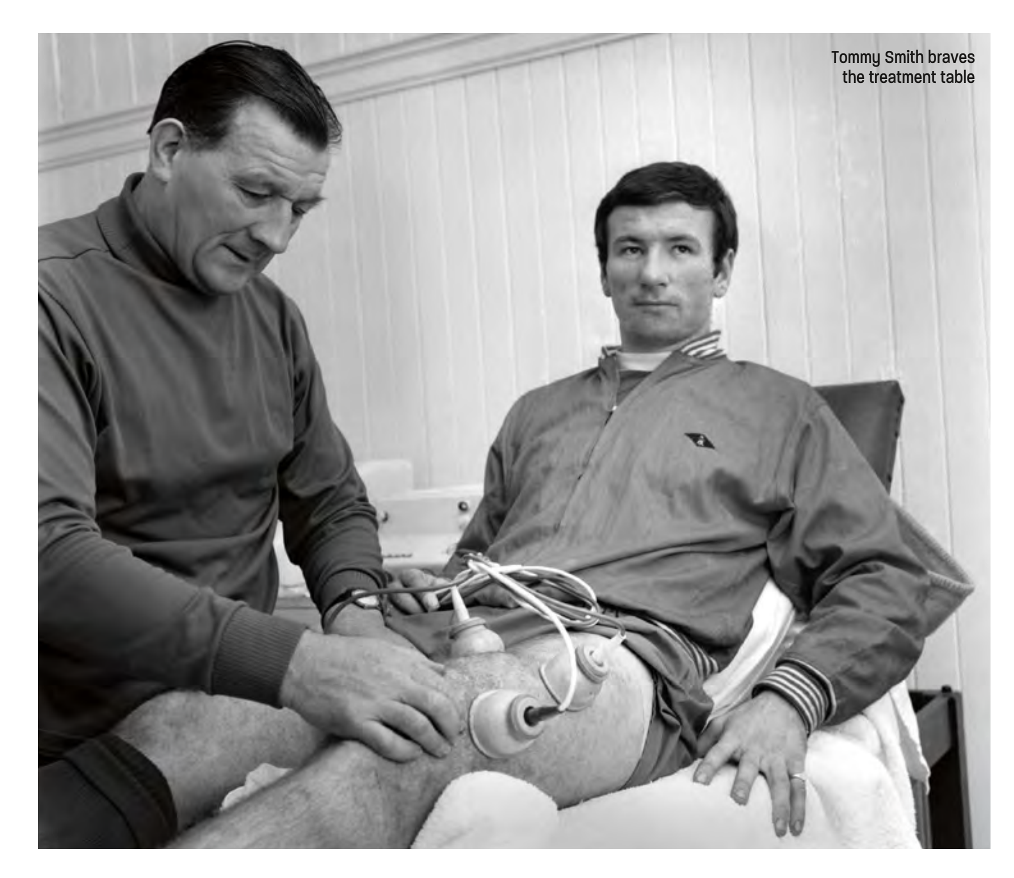
It was now that Paisley gradually began taking over Albert Shelley's role as physiotherapist. When staff arrived for work one day in 1957, they were amused to find him sitting there in Shelley's white coat. It was the only time in his life that he would be unabashed about taking someone else's job. He felt that his own hold on a profession in football depended on it.

Liverpool's fruitless struggles to get promoted, however, made Anfield a far less secure place. One of Scotland's most celebrated coaches, Reuben Bennett, was head-hunted by TV Williams and also appointed 'chief coach' in December 1958, after a role working for Bill Shankly's brother, Bob, at Third Lanark, north of the Scottish border. This must have created insecurity for Paisley, whose role carried the same title.

But none of that uncertainty matched December 1959 when Taylor was sacked and Bill Shankly walked


Bob embraced physiotherapy once his playing days were over




Tommy Smith braves the treatment table

SHANKLY WAS THE VISIONARY AND PAISLEY WAS THE DETAILS MAN, PUTTING THE IDEA INTO EFFECT

through the door as manager. Paisley submitted a letter to the Liverpool board, asking for a clarification of his position. Fatefully, Shankly concluded that the backroom team would remain intact. He could work with Paisley, Bennett and Joe Fagan, recruited from Rochdale as reserve-team trainer in 1958.

Four glorious years passed, crowned by Shankly restoring Liverpool to the First Division in 1962, before Paisley provided the white-coat moment so many always remembered. He was applying electrodes to the left leg of Jimmy Melia, Liverpool's midfielder, and trying to put him at ease.

"Right, Jimmy, if you feel anything untoward just give us a shout and I'll turn it off right away…" the players remember him telling Melia as he walked a few yards towards a battery of dials near the window. Could he feel anything? Paisley then asked. "No, Bob," said Melia. "Now?" asked Paisley. "Nothing, Bob," said Melia. "Jesus Christ, Bob – haven't you read the instructions?" asked Shankly, pacing around impatiently in the background.

"The instructions are in German," Paisley replied. "Weren't you in the war, for God's sake? Don't you understand German?" "This one must need turning up," said Paisley, fiddling with the dials.

"Bob. The plug…it's not on at the wall," said Chris Lawler, the full-back who was one of the quieter ones but often compensated for lack of noise with quality of observation. A look of anxiety began to spread across Melia's face. Paisley reached down to introduce electricity into the equation and Melia's leg shot up in the air. "Turn the bloody thing off," shouted Shankly. The players who were not doubled up by now joined in his plea.

Liverpool trod boldly, if sometimes comically, across new sports science frontiers and the episode demonstrated how Paisley's relationship with Shankly had started to form. Shankly was the visionary who would get a scent of how Liverpool could be different and any obstacle in his way, be damned. Paisley was the details man – left to put the idea, or machine, into effect.

A feature in the Liverpool Echo's Football Pink a few years later pictured Paisley standing in front of a bank of technology, including three models of interferential machine, a short-wave Diatherm machine, massaging vibrator and a galaxy of ointments.

The machine and Melia survived the plug problem. Shankly and Paisley both concluded that it had an effect and Shankly, in his overseeing role, soon became so enthused by it that he wanted the people of Liverpool to benefit. On one occasion he ran out onto the street outside Anfield, found a couple of pensioners with aches and pains and brought them in – one limping, the other with backache. "Put them on the machine, Bob," he instructed, and Paisley obliged.

Legend also has it that one day Shankly arrived at the door with an old man and a whippet and they had concocted a plan to try it out on the dog. "Bugger off," Paisley replied. "I'm not working on a bloody whippet."

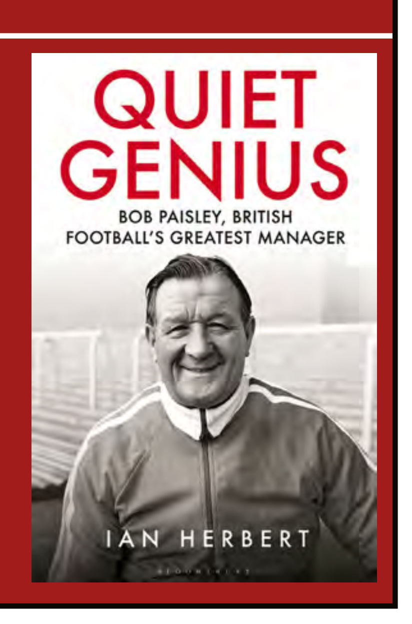
■ **From Quiet Genius: Bob Paisley, British Football's Greatest Manager by Ian Herbert. Pub. Bloomsbury priced £20 / £17.99 eBook.**

WIN THE BOOK!

We've got five copies of Quiet Genuis to give away to five lucky readers. To be in with a chance of winning, simply answer the following question and email it with your contact details to liverpoolfcmag@trinitymirror.com with BOB PAISLEY in the subject line.

Which North-East mining village was Bob Paisley from? (a) Hetton-le-Hole (b) Chester-le-Street (c) Dalton-le-Dale.

The closing date is 30 June 2017 and winners will be notified soon after. Usual competition rules apply.



■ **The winner of last month's LFC 125 shirt competition was Yvonne Rogers of Heswall.**


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Amy with manager Scott Rogers

Holding the scarf aloft

Touching the famous sign

Magpie to Liverbird

New Liverpool Ladies defender Amy Turner has overcome her share of adversity and is now looking forward to life with the Reds...

Friday 21 April 2017. It is two days before the start of the FA WSL Spring Series and Notts County Ladies are preparing to play Arsenal Ladies. Amy Turner and the rest of the Lady Magpies squad are asked to attend a team meeting. It will be unlike any team meeting she and her team-mates have ever experienced in football.

They walk out of the room minutes later with their worlds turned upside down. The players have been told that due to debts approaching £1 million, the club is to fold. The squad go from focusing on the Gunners to concentrating on their very futures as they are now out of work.

For England defender Turner, who joined Scott Rogers' Liverpool Ladies squad last month, the news was doubly difficult to accept as she was recovering from a long-term injury.

"It's been quite a difficult past few weeks," she now explains. "It's unlike anything I've ever experienced before. I think the timing of the announcement was the main issue that shocked everyone. We presumed the meeting would be about the Arsenal game. You can't really prepare for that kind of news.

"Being injured was a double-edged sword. On the one hand, of course, I got the panic of not being able to trial at other teams and knowing I wouldn't be able to pass a usual medical

"On the other, I probably spent less time at the club than the other girls. I was receiving physio at EIS [English Institute of Sport] in Sheffield as opposed to at Notts, so I hadn't been around as much since the start of January."

Another silver lining for Amy was the knowledge that Liverpool had been keen to secure her services in the past. "I knew that Liverpool had shown an interest and I think Scott has said that he tried to sign me last year. He's always shown an interest in me as a player so that was really positive. I did have a couple of clubs contacting me but Liverpool was always going to be my first choice.

"It has been a difficult experience but I can finally put that behind me now and look forward to the next chapter here at Liverpool."

Amy is no stranger to overcoming adversity. She had even toyed with giving up on football altogether when she was given a free transfer from Doncaster Rovers Belles in 2011 and told she wasn't good enough to play at FA WSL 1 level. Four years later



A COUPLE OF CLUBS SHOWED INTEREST BUT LIVERPOOL WAS ALWAYS GOING TO BE FIRST CHOICE

Amy is looking forward to wearing the Liverpool Ladies shirt

she was a full England international and shortlisted for the PFA Women's Young Player of the Year award.

"I think I was too young to take that kind of set-back – being told I wasn't up to it – and it did affect me for a couple of years. I dropped down the leagues and kind of believed what people were saying about me. It was a case of: well if they think it, it must be true. I was only 19 or 20, so that kind of thing is hard for a young player to take. But I think in the end it spurred me on and gave me the motivation to think: I am going to prove you wrong. Throughout my career, I think I have proved people wrong.

"When I signed for Lincoln Ladies and then played my first season at Notts County, I was something of an unknown quantity and that was the year I was nominated for the PFA Young Player. I think I liked the feeling of proving people wrong. It definitely helped me outside of the game too in thinking: I'm going to make myself a better player and I'm going to develop because I want to play for England.

I'M HUNGRY TO GET BACK OUT ON THE PITCH AND HOPEFULLY MAKE A NAME FOR MYSELF HERE

"Those ambitions don't really go away, although your confidence is affected. But that has always been something I wanted to achieve. I am quite a determined person. This injury I've had has made me more determined and hungry to get back on the pitch, make an impact and hopefully make a name for myself."

Coach Rogers believes that is something his new recruit can achieve. "We had been keen on bringing Amy to the club for a while. She loves to defend, which is an art that seems to be dying in football these days. She is comfortable with either foot and can play right across the back-line so I'm sure she will be a good addition when she is fully fit."

Amy is pleased to be part of the Liverpool Ladies set-up and is targeting a return to action when the FA WSL 1 resumes in September.

"This is the biggest club I've been involved with and you can see how professional it is. You can see that the foundations are there to be successful. I don't think it's too big of an ask to be expecting Liverpool to be competing with your Man Citys, Chelseas and Arsenals. Everything is in place to allow Liverpool to do that and now I think it's just a case of maybe adding a little bit more depth to the squad.

"If you look at Chelsea and Arsenal, the depth to their squads is massive and that's certainly something that seems to be happening here too. The recruitment over the past few years has been important and if that continues, then there's no doubt that Liverpool Ladies will be challenging for trophies again."



It takes two: Amy with her new shirt

words by William Hughes



“Talented, hard-working, ready”

The verdict from boss Scott Rogers on a Spring Series campaign of ups and downs

Manager Scott Rogers believes his Liverpool Ladies team has made progress during the FA Women's Super League 1 Spring Series.

The eight-game mini-season was introduced by the FA as a one-off to bridge the gap before the women's calendar links with the men's autumn campaign. The Reds ended their season in fourth position, one place higher than they finished the 2016 FA WSL 1 season. The team also reached the semi-finals of the FA Women's Cup.

“Overall, I think we have seen progress,” says Rogers. “Our aims were to bed new players into the team, give some younger players minutes at first-team level and keep our players who are going to this summer's Women's EUROs sharp and I think we have done that. We have played some good attacking football and scored plenty of goals. There have been some lessons for us to learn too and hopefully we will have done that and be in good shape for when the new season kicks off in September.

“In many ways it was hard to view it as a normal league. For instance, once Notts County Ladies dropped out on the eve of the season [the club folded due to mounting debts] we were left with three home games and five away matches so it wasn't reflective of a regular format.

“In the end we lost twice, against the top two sides in Manchester City and Chelsea, which is no disgrace. And without making excuses, we were hit by injuries in defence for those two games. In the final match against Manchester City it's a fact that I only had one regular defender who was fit. So all things considered we feel that we are moving in the right direction. We have a talented, hard-working squad and we are already looking forward to the new season.”

Rogers doesn't foresee too much in the way of transfer activity during the summer window. “We are very happy with the squad and we have some very talented younger players pushing to get into it, too. There may be one or two tweaks but I don't imagine there will be wholesale changes.”

Wales attacker Natasha Harding and Scotland midfielder Caroline Weir finished the spring season as the Reds' joint-top scorers, with six goals each in league and cup.

FA WSL 1 SPRING SERIES TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Chelsea	8	6	1	1	32	3	29	19
Man City	8	6	1	1	17	6	11	19
Arsenal	8	5	3	0	22	9	13	18
Liverpool	8	4	2	2	20	18	2	14
Sunderland	8	2	3	3	4	14	-10	9
Reading	8	2	2	4	10	15	-5	8
Birmingham	8	1	4	3	6	10	-4	7
Bristol C	8	1	1	6	5	21	-16	4
Yeovil T	8	0	1	7	6	26	-20	1

SPRING SERIES

April		
23	Yeovil T (A)	4-1
28	Reading (H)	4-2
May		
4	Arsenal (A)	4-4
7	Birmingham C (A)	2-0
17	Sunderland (H)	4-0
20	Bristol C (A)	1-1
28	Chelsea (A)	0-7
June		
3	Man City (H)	1-3

FA WOMEN'S CUP

March		
19	Everton (R5, H)	2-1*
26	Notts C (R6, H)	2-0
April		
16	Man City (S-F, A)	0-1

* after extra-time

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Neil Mellor

Now we need a squad strong enough to challenge on all fronts

Liverpool Football Club has been associated with winning trophies throughout its 125-year history and that is something we all aspire to see happening again, but despite the lack of silverware on the table I believe it has been a successful season.

One Champions League campaign in seven years hasn't been good enough, so securing a top-four spot was the minimum target in 2016/17 and that has been achieved.

When you look at how competitive the Premier League is, with Arsenal and Manchester United winning three trophies between them but finishing outside the top four, it shows you how difficult Champions League qualification is to attain.

Manchester City have got Pep Guardiola. Jose Mourinho has spent huge amounts at Manchester United. It gets harder every season, but since Jürgen Klopp was appointed as Liverpool manager in October 2015 we have seen undoubted improvement and hugely entertaining football.

His next task is to ensure the squad is strong enough to challenge on a number of fronts in 2017/18 as we saw this season that if key players get injured we're perhaps not as well-placed as rival clubs to deal with it.

SOLANKE IS CAPABLE OF DOING THE HARDEST THING IN FOOTBALL – SCORING GOALS

That's why I think there will be more arrivals than departures this summer with an injection of quality and experience being targeted, but Jürgen is also a manager who will give youth an opportunity and he's got some exciting young players coming through. He's also added to his attacking options by signing Dominic Solanke, a kid who is capable of doing the hardest thing in football – scoring goals. Solanke is a young talent who has been schooled at Chelsea but has looked at his situation and questioned his route through to the first team. A lot of youngsters have experienced success in Chelsea's youth team but haven't had an opportunity to establish themselves in the first team so have moved on. Solanke is in that category so fair play to him for being brave enough to sign for Liverpool instead of letting his career stagnate at Stamford Bridge or spend a couple of seasons on loan.

I've seen a fair bit of the 19-year-old and given the enormous potential that he has, I think Liverpool might have acquired a very exciting young player at a very good price who will be working under a coach who puts his faith in young players. When Solanke's opportunity comes along it will be up to him to take it and let his quality shine through.

Potential is spoken about a lot in football, but fulfilling it is difficult. You have to make sacrifices in other areas of your life, you have to be mentally ready for when the manager selects you and you have to be capable of showing your quality at a higher level.

It can come down to how much you want to be a football player at a big club and if Solanke can tick all those boxes he's a player who could be at Liverpool for a number of years because he has the ability to score goals and a football brain.

Of course Solanke's arrival means more competition for places for young strikers Ben Woodburn and Rhian Brewster, who is a similar type of forward. They know there will always be players coming in at a club like Liverpool and these are the challenges they have to deal with to have a career at Anfield.

It's up to them to be the best they can every day, to make the necessary sacrifices and to listen to the coaching staff. They are the people to listen to, not agents or people outside the game. Down at the Academy Liverpool have a fantastic coaching staff. Alex Inglethorpe, Steven Gerrard, Neil Critchley, Mike Garrity – great people who can help young Liverpool players fulfil their potential if they are listened to.

More new players will arrive, but the young lads will get opportunities under Klopp to make their mark. They must be ready to take them.



Dominic Solanke has great potential

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125 YEARS

It's a detail of the special 125th anniversary Liverbird crest on the new away kit – but in which year did the club first adopt the bird as its crest? **Answer on page 98**

Awards night, Anfield news, Reds abroad, LFC Foundation and the new away kit

CLUB





The upper section of the Centenary Stand under construction in 1991

Fit for a King

A brief history of The Kenny Dalglish Stand, as it has been renamed in this 125th anniversary year to honour the special status Kenny holds at Anfield



How it looked at the last game of last season

Summer 1983

Nineteen-ninety two. The year that manager Graeme Souness, four weeks after heart surgery, was at Wembley to watch his Reds side win the FA Cup by beating Sunderland 2-0, the goals scored by Michael Thomas (a Souness signing) and Ian Rush with his fifth in three final appearances.

The year too that a teenage Robbie Fowler burst onto the scene, scoring on his debut against Fulham in the League Cup second round. "I wasn't surprised," veteran striker Ian Rush told the *Liverpool Echo*. "I know he can get goals and I believe he can do it the Premier League. Robbie has a knack for scoring, he's quick and brave, and I see no reason why he won't have a good future."

And the year that the new Centenary Stand was opened at Anfield, to replace the old single-tiered Kemlyn Road Stand as LFC

The previous stand under construction in 1963

Today's colourful concourse inside



Euro chief applauds Anfield's £8m stand

By Richard Elias

Colin Thwaite, right, presents the Football Trust's £2m contribution to the work to LFC chairman David Moores under the watch of Mr Johansson and FA chairman Sir Bert Millichip

'This is what the shape of football should be in future'

be a law to keep people where they are. First keep them under control and then make sure that they do not get abroad."

● ITV, still smarting from losing out on television rights for football's new Premier League has hit back with a major sporting coup.

They have secured an exclusive deal to screen this season's European Cup matches live from the quarter-final stages onwards.



celebrated its 100th birthday.

The official ceremony took place ahead of a midweek game with Southampton, special guest Lennart Johansson, the UEFA president, unveiling a commemorative plaque and helping to release 100 red balloons into the night sky.

A century earlier, when the club was formed, there had been ten tiered rows of wooden benching here, followed by a covered pavilion that ran the length of the playing field. Then in 1963 a significant upgrade occurred. With Bill Shankly leading the team out of oblivion and back into the big time, it was decided to invest £350,000 in a new structure on Kemlyn Road capable of holding 6,700 spectators. The Reds won the league title the following season, 1963/64.

As success at home was followed by glory on the Continent, under first Shanks then Bob Paisley, the ambition to expand the ground further was always there. But trying to acquire properties behind the Kemlyn Road stand was a lengthy process, and it wasn't until 1992 that it was developed with an additional upper tier. The Centenary Stand was born.

Today its capacity today is 11,411, plus around 344 in executive boxes. In recent years its suites have hosted legends' reunions, supporters' functions and LFC Foundation events, and the interior concourse now boasts colourful cut-outs of legendary players, 'Anfield Moments' celebrating great games and goals with extracts of famous commentary, and a Captains Hall of Fame.

All in all, a stand worthy of its new, illustrious name.

The old Kemlyn prior to demolition in 1992

SADIO WINS THE DOUBLE

Senegalese star is the main Mane but wasn't the only winner at the LFC Players' Awards night

Sadio Mane was recognised as Liverpool FC's star performer of the season by fans and teammates at the club's 2017 Players' Awards ceremony at Anfield.

In his debut campaign with the Reds, the Senegal international scored 13 Premier League goals in 29 appearances, injecting extra pace and creativity to Jürgen Klopp's side before injury brought a premature conclusion to his debut campaign in April.

Mane was voted Player of the Season by supporters in a poll on the club's website, and also secured the accolade of Players' Player of the Season – as chosen by the rest of the Liverpool first team.

Among the other winners on the night were Emre Can, whose spectacular overhead kick against Watford secured the Goal of the Season prize, and Trent Alexander-Arnold – named the club's Young Player of the Season.

Sophie Ingle took the honour of Liverpool Ladies' Player of the Season, while Ben Woodburn's breakthrough campaign, in which the forward became the club's youngest ever goalscorer, was acknowledged by the Academy with their Player of the Season award.

Staff and supporters were recognised during the annual event held inside Anfield's newly-expanded Main Stand, too, and there were special presentations to Reds legend Roger Hunt, the European Cup-winning team of 1977 and Lucas Leiva for his decade of service to the club.



Sadio thanks all those that voted for him

Standard Chartered Player of the Season: Sadio Mane

LFC TV's Claire Rourke and Peter McDowall presented the event



Mane gets a well earned hug from Jürgen Klopp



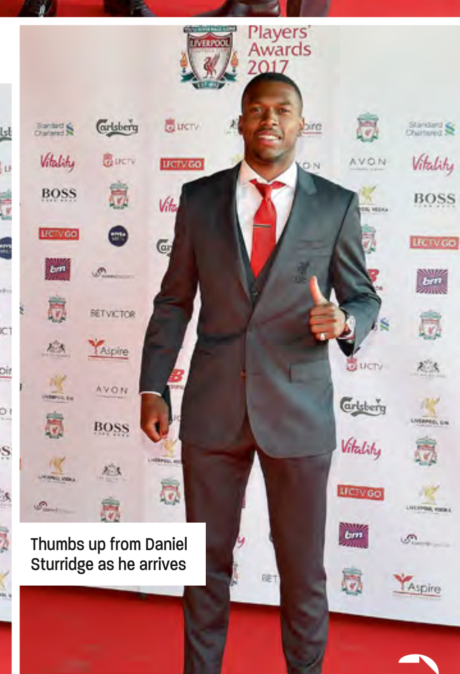
Lovren, Grujic, Karius and Can looking sharp!



The boys from Brazil and their wives



Lallana, Mane and Alexander-Arnold



Thumbs up from Daniel Sturridge as he arrives

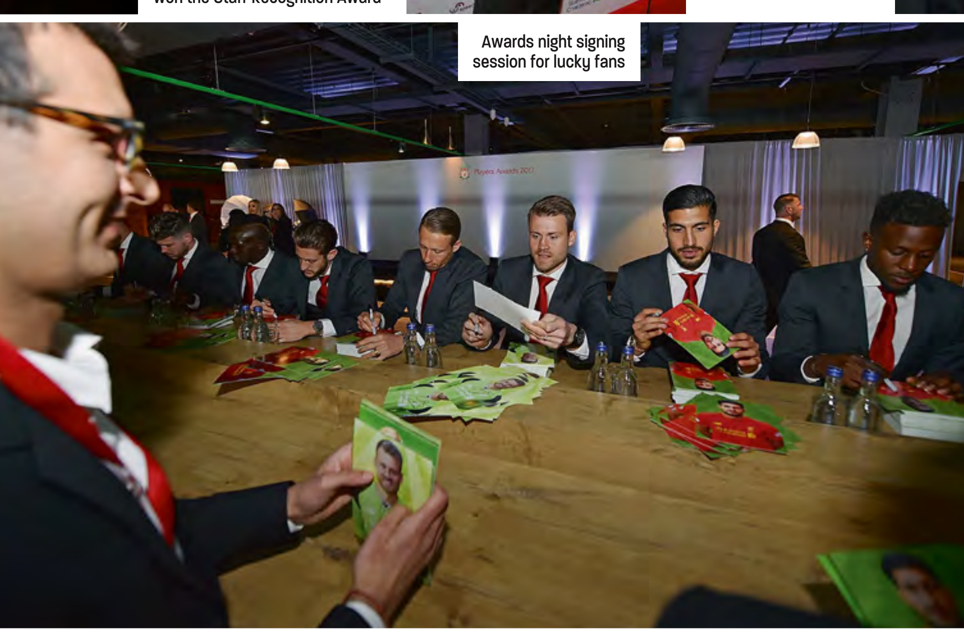

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Milner, Lucas and Moreno on the red carpet


The LFC disability support team won the Staff Recognition Award


Anfield legend Gary McAllister chats to LFC TV


LFC Ladies' Jess Clarke, Kate Longhurst and Shanice van de Sanden


Awards night signing session for lucky fans


Guests arriving at Anfield for the Players' Awards 2017


Vitality Young Player of the Season: Trent Alexander-Arnold

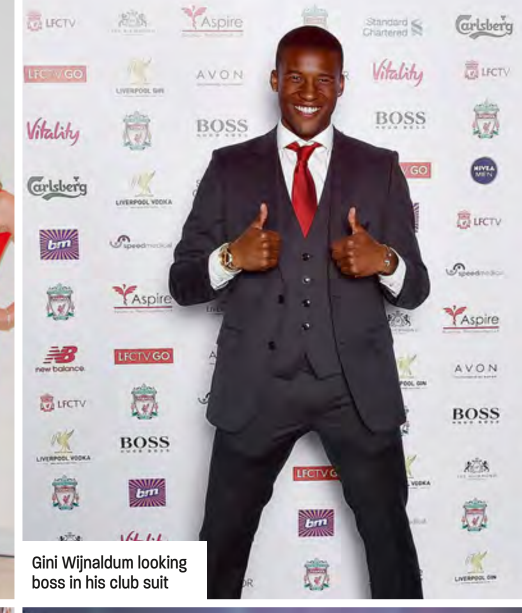

LFC disability support team with Jürgen Klopp



Jürgen Klopp has a chat with Claire Rourke



LFC Ladies with manager Scott Rogers



Gini Wijnaldum looking boss in his club suit



Roger Hunt received LFC's Lifetime Achievement Award

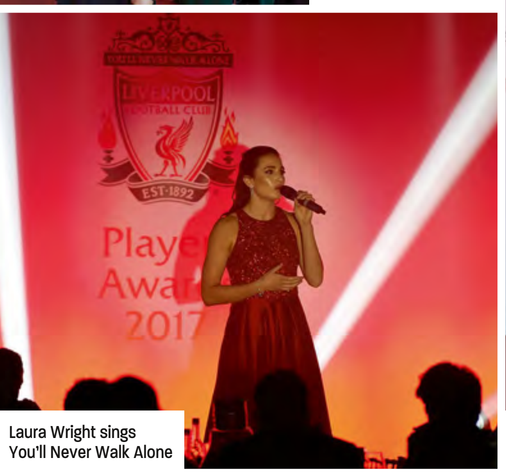


Katie Zelem, Ashley Hodson & Caroline Weir



Avon Ladies Players' Player of the Season Sophie Ingle

LFC Ladies keeper Danielle Gibbons



Laura Wright sings You'll Never Walk Alone



LFC's new Under-18s boss Steven Gerrard



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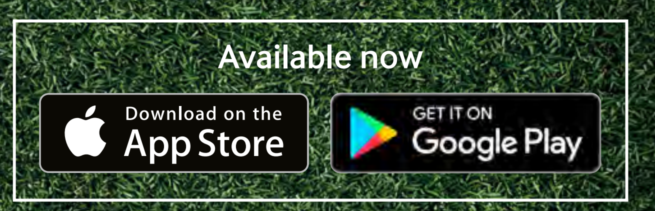
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DISCOVER LIVERPOOL FC ON DUGOUT



DUGOUT

FOOTBALL • INSIDE OUT



Lucas Leiva shows off his Special Recognition Award with Kenny Dalglish



Oh Mane, Mane der der der der der der!



Emre Can won Speed Medical Goal of the Season for his bicycle-kick at Watford


Robbie Fowler with Young Player of the Season Trent Alexander-Arnold

All Saints School head Jeremy Barnes with the Bill Shankly Community Award



Sophie Ingle is all smiles as she holds her trophy



Aspire Partners Academy Players' Player of the Year Ben Woodburn

Stevie G handed LFC's Rome '77 side the Outstanding Team Achievement Award



2017 LFC PLAYERS' AWARDS WINNERS

Young Player of the Season: Trent Alexander-Arnold
Supporters Club of the Season: Cyprus
Staff Recognition Award: Disability support team
First Team Players' Player of the Season: Sadio Mane
Academy Players' Player of the Season: Ben Woodburn
Ladies Players' Player of the Season: Sophie Ingle
Bill Shankly Community Award: Jeremy Barnes
Outstanding Team Achievement Award: Rome 1977 team
Special Recognition Award: Lucas Leiva
Goal of the Season: Emre Can
Lifetime Achievement Award: Roger Hunt
Player of the Season: Sadio Mane

It's an LFC world!

Reds legends on the other side of the world to support young fans and mingle with fans



Gary, Jason and Craig Down Under

LFC legends Gary McAllister, Jason McAteer & Craig Johnston took part in a series of soccer clinics Down Under ahead of the post-season friendly with Sydney FC.

On Saturday 20 May the ex-Reds attended the Community 6v6 Tournament, run in conjunction with Football United and The Reagan Milstein Foundation, and aimed at grassroots football. Gary, Jason and Craig delivered team-talks to children in Under-12 and Under-16 categories ahead of the games and took part in a meet-and-greet.

"It's all about having fun and this is a well-organised event where the local kids can play team sport," said Aussie legend Johnston. "It's important that the kids get these types of opportunities to learn life-lessons as well as learn to play football. The LFC badge just makes it even more special."

The following Sunday saw youngsters aged 8-16 years attend with additional support from the Sydney Official LFC Supporter's Branch. Gary Mac said: "We've had a brilliant two days here and I hope the kids have learned some new skills from the Liverpool FC coaches."

In China, meanwhile, fellow Reds legends Robbie Fowler, John Barnes, Sami Hyypia and Luis Garcia visited LFC World Shanghai, officially opening the event at the Bailian Group River





Craig Johnston passes on some tips



You can put your shirt on them






With a familiar friend


Robbie shoots!

Mall Shopping Center.

Club ambassador Robbie said: "For Reds in China, LFC World in Shanghai is the place to be. We know not all of our fans can make it to Anfield so this is our way of bringing Anfield closer to them – and we couldn't wait to meet everyone!"

More information on LFC World presented by Standard Chartered can be found at **liverpoolfc.com/lfcworld.**

GLOBE TROTTING WITH JÜRGEN

Hong Kong, Berlin, Munich and Dublin will be welcoming the Reds this summer, after the club announced a series of pre-season trips and fixtures for Jürgen Klopp's men.

Liverpool have been invited to the Premier League Asia Trophy taking place at the Hong Kong Stadium on Wednesday 19 and Saturday 22 July. It will be LFC's second appearance (after 2007), this time competing against Crystal Palace, Leicester City and West Bromwich Albion.

August brings a trip to Berlin to play Hertha BSC followed by participation in the Audi Cup in Munich, along with Bayern Munich, Atletico Madrid and a fourth side to be confirmed. It's the fifth edition of the tournament and it takes place on Tuesday 1 and Wednesday 2 August at the Allianz Arena.

The news was broken via live a 3D holographic transmission with Jürgen Klopp beaming in from Anfield to join Bayern's Carlo Ancelotti and Atletico's Diego Simeone at the press conference in Munich in a sporting world first. It's the first time Liverpool have competed in the bi-annual event.

There follows a friendly against Athletic Bilbao on Saturday 5 August at the Aviva Stadium in Dublin.





PURE LIVERPOOL FC

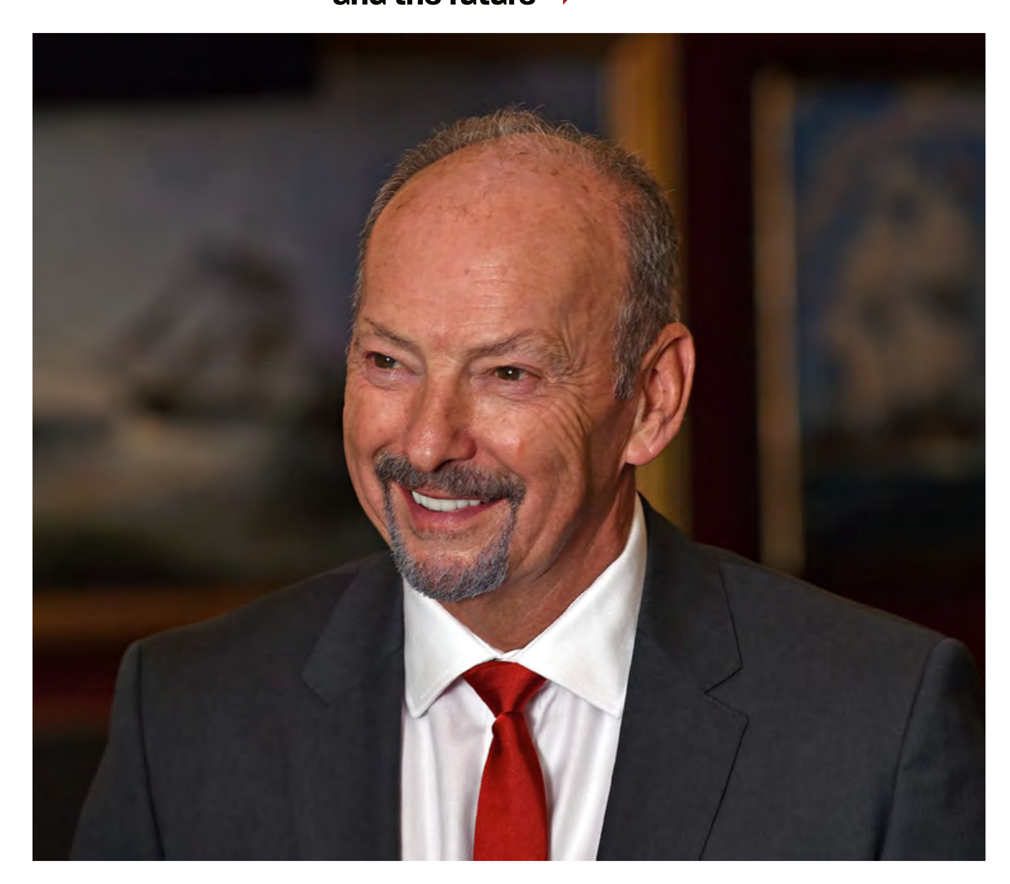
FOR 125 YEARS | 1892-2017

BETVICTOR

IN-STORE AND ONLINE
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IT'S GOING TO BE INCREDIBLY EXCITING

New CEO Peter Moore speaks to liverpoolfc.com about his appointment and the future



How does it feel to be here in your position as Liverpool's chief executive officer?

It's an honour, it's a privilege. As a lad from Liverpool, growing up I never would have dreamt that I'd be in a position to help and support the club, and guide us through what I think is going to be an incredibly exciting couple of years to come here. I think about my upbringing, I think about my love for this club and my experience in business, and being able to bring that together to help this club is unbelievable.

When the opportunity arose, what went through your mind?

My dad went through my mind. My dad imbued Liverpool Football Club into me. We first walked into Anfield, holding my hand, in 1959: Liverpool 4-3 Leyton Orient. I bled red. I can still feel and smell and experience that day. You feel like you're going to meet your dad again and he's going to say 'So how did it all end up?' and I say 'I ended up as the CEO of our club, dad'. That was the first thing that went through my mind.

Is this unlike any position that you've held before, because of the emotional connection?

It is. The emotional connection of not only the passion I have for the business of football, but this is my club. The great companies I've worked with before, I have a passion – a passion for the product, the brand and the people. But when you add the passion for your club, this is very special. The weight of what I will be doing, on the expectations of hundreds of millions of people like me – devout Reds – it's huge for me.

Tell us about your remit at the club and what you'll be responsible for...

In broad terms, Jürgen and his coaching staff and the scouting teams are responsible for everything down there – success, goals, clean sheets and entertaining football. Giving the fans who come here and watch all around the world everything they deserve, because expectations are going to be high. In my world, my team and my remit is to provide all of the resources, the support, the revenue required. Football is big business nowadays. This club deserves and is determined to be where we were in the 1970s and 80s as a world-class club and, in my estimation, the best club in the world. We have the best footballing story, we're the biggest footballing family in the world. My job is to make sure we deliver against everything that I as a fan, I as the CEO and everybody that loves what we do here...[that we] deliver against their expectations.



THE LFC FOUNDATION IS THE OFFICIAL CHARITY OF LIVERPOOL FOOTBALL CLUB. WE CREATE LIFE CHANGING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN MERSEYSIDE AND BEYOND. FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @LFCFOUNDATION

Mighty Red with youngsters during Anfield's Legends game

ONE IN A MILLION

LFC Foundation Legends Charity Match raises £1m for exceptional causes

The LFC Foundation is proud to announce that its first-ever official Legends game held at Anfield in March has raised over £1m.

The Liverpool FC Legends took on Real Madrid's Legends at Anfield back on Saturday 25 March 2017 in a rematch of the Corazon Classic played in June 2015 at the Estadio Santiago Bernabeu. Broadcast live on LFCTV and LFCTV GO, the hosts beat their illustrious guests 4-3 in a thrilling clash in front of a 54,000 sell-out crowd.

Reds skipper Steven Gerrard made his highly-anticipated return to Anfield and contributed to the scoreline with fellow legends Robbie Fowler, John Aldridge and Michael Owen. Fernando Morientes, Edwin



It's Luis Garcia!

Congo and Ruben De La Red scored for Real Madrid Legends and secured a nail-biting end to the game.

One hundred per cent of the proceeds from the game will go directly to the LFC Foundation to help support its programmes and partnerships making a real difference to the lives of young people.

The Foundation will split the funds 50/50, allocating 50 per cent of the total proceeds raised between its charity partners Alder Hey Children's Charity, the University of Liverpool and the Liverpool Tropical School of Medicine, to help fund joint-projects. The other 50 per cent will fund key LFC Foundation programmes to help improve the health and life-chances of children and young people in Merseyside and beyond.

Andrea Cooper, head of LFC Foundation, said: "I would like to thank everyone who supported this game – our fans, the Legends, our partners Nivea Men and Halewood, the club and all our staff. This helped us to deliver a truly fantastic day to remember at Anfield and raise a huge amount of money.

"The LFC family can achieve so much as a collective, and the ongoing support and generosity we receive will enable us to improve the lives of many children and make a real difference."



Stevie scores!

LFC'S EQUALITY INSPIRES AWARD





Kick It Out, football's equality and inclusion organisation, has presented Liverpool Football Club with the Equality Inspires Award.

The honour, alongside the Premier League, encourages clubs and their academies to educate staff, players and their guardians about equality. LFC Academy director Alex Inglethorpe received the award after Kick It Out education manager Troy Townsend completed a number of Equality Inspires workshops with the club's Academy sides throughout the season. "Kick It Out have challenged our thinking and it is a privilege for the club to work alongside them on such a regular basis," said Alex.

Troy added: "Liverpool FC have embraced the concept of Equality Inspires over the last two seasons. I have been immensely impressed with the discussions around challenging topics such as racism, sexism and homophobia.

"Today's player needs as much guidance and support off the pitch as they do on it and Liverpool FC are at the forefront of providing that duty of care, often going above and beyond the norm. It is a real privilege to work with such a pro-active club on these matters."

WHAT'S IN



This is the second of three new kits marking the club's 125th anniversary, and it continues the theme of celebrating iconic periods and kits from Liverpool FC's history.

Taking inspiration from LFC's founding jersey worn in 1892, the shirt features a quartered design that re-introduces the bottle-green colour of the 1991/92 and 1995/96 away kits. There is a subtle pin-stripe within the quartered design and a black collar, and the kit is completed by black shorts and white socks with a green horizontal stripe and black trim.

The away kit also features an embroidered 125th anniversary commemorative crest, the Liverbird flanked with 1892 and 2017, and the 96 emblem encased by eternal flames at the nape of the neck.

The goalkeeper kit incorporates a black design with white crest and white New Balance and Standard Chartered branding and is completed by a tonal three-coloured sleeve pattern.



Kids Away Goalkeeper Shirt (JT7395) £45

Mens Away Goalkeeper Shirt (MT7397) £50 Also in long-sleeve (MT7395) £55

Men's Away Shorts (MS7317) £25 Also Kids Away Shorts (JS7317) £19

STORE

Check out some of the range from the 125th Anniversary New Balance Away Kit for 2017/18



Mens Replica Away Shirt (MT7315) £50 Also in long-sleeve (MT7316) £55

Women's Replica Away Shirt (WT7315) £50

Mens Away Socks (MA7319) £12 Also Kids Away Socks (JA7319) £8

Kids L/S Away Shirt (JT7316) £45 Also in short-sleeve (JT7315) £42

Infant Away Kit (IY73129) £35 Also Baby Away Kit (BY73129) £30



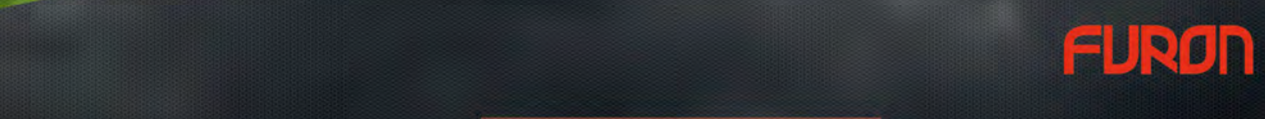
QUIZ ANSWERS: LIVERPOOL p11: Playing alongside Steven Gerrard in the post-season friendly against Sydney FC were fellow ex-Reds Jamie Carragher, Daniel Agger and Steve McManaman; **FOOTBALL p29:** Roberto Firmino scored three times against Swansea City last season – once in October's 2-1 win in South Wales and twice in January's 3-2 defeat at Anfield; **CLUB p77:** Liverpool FC first took the city's Liverbird as its crest in 1901 (five years earlier it had adopted the municipal colours of red and white for its kit).











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